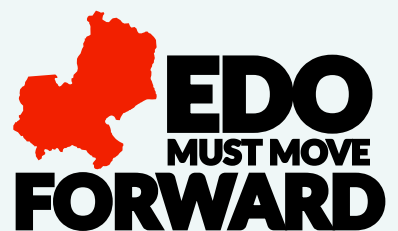


THE SIMPLE AGENDA

...a manifesto of hope



Pst. Dr. OSAGIE IZE-IYAMU Esq.



**READY TO
SERVE**

THE SIMPLE AGENDA

A MANIFESTO OF HOPE



Pastor Dr. Osagie Ize-Iyamu Esq.

©2020

OUR VISION:

To make Edo State a model for the country.

OUR MISSION:

To fast track the transformation
of Edo state through
transparent, effective and accountable
governance that will improve the
living standards and social well being of our people.



Preamble

My dear Edo people, I respectfully greet you and wish you a prosperous year 2020.

In 2005, I and a few others formed the **Action Congress (AC)**. It was on this platform that Comrade Adams Aliu Oshiomhole contested for the office of governor of Edo State in 2007 and was sworn-in after a protracted legal battle in 2008. Afterwards, the party metamorphosed twice into the **Advanced Congress for Democrats (ACD)** and then the **Action Congress of Nigeria, (ACN)**.

I was privileged to serve as the National Vice-Chairman of the ACN, South-South zone and was a member of the party's National caucus. In 2012, I was appointed the Director-General (**DG**) of Comrade Adams Aliu Oshiomhole's second term re-election campaign and our party won in the 18 Local Government Areas of Edo State.

As one of the few who pioneered the move for the merger of the **ACN** with other political parties, I was a member of the merger committee and functioned simultaneously as the Vice-Chairman of the Constitution drafting committee before the final registration of the party, **All Progressive Congress, (APC)**, on the 6th of February, 2013.

After a lingering crisis arising from party congresses in 2014, I exited the party and joined the People's Democratic Party, (PDP). The first edition of the **SIMPLE** Agenda was published in 2015 when I decided to contest for the governorship of the state in 2016.

Arising from our interaction with leaders of the APC at both national and state level on the need to return to the party and our disenchantment with the lackluster attitude of the PDP leadership in Edo state which was inimical to our objective and vision, we decided to revert to the APC.

We have never hidden the fact that our primary objective in politics is to access government for the benefit of our people and we are confident that the party offers the best platform to represent our people, pursue and actualize their interest.

This year is vital because it marks the end of the four-year rule of an administration that came on the wings of so many promises and offers us an opportunity of electing a new government that will manage the affairs of the State.

The change that Edo people desire is not one based on empty sloganeering or deceit. Edolites yearn for change that is real, life-enhancing, verifiable, purposeful, and sustainable.

We have analyzed the current challenges facing our state, consulted widely across the 18 Local Government Areas, and on the basis of the APC manifesto, we have come up with a robust blueprint to

launch Edo State on the path to sustainable prosperity and holistic development. Ours is a genuine road map to transform our state from its present unacceptable condition of underdevelopment to an attractive State with a vibrant economy. The blueprint, code-named the “**SIMPLE**” Agenda (**2nd Edition**), offers measurable commitments that would be implemented with passion, single-mindedness, as well as incisive competence and experience.

The **SIMPLE** Agenda is **SMART**. It is:

Specific

Measurable

Accurate

Reliable and

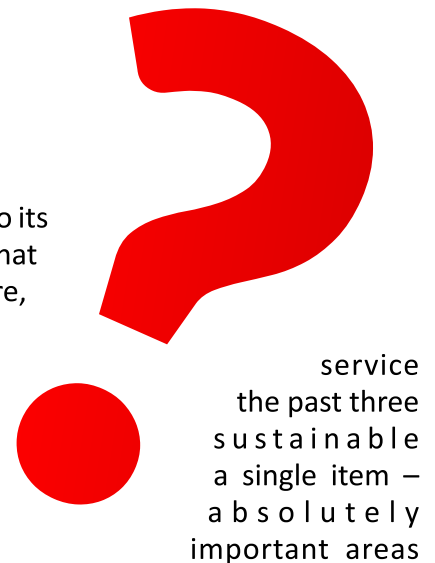
Time bound

What Are The Issues?

Any government that intends to bring real development and prosperity to its citizens must focus on a comprehensive and sustainable development that encompasses several aspects including improvement of infrastructure, health, education, human resource development, job creation, industrialization, agriculture, security and improvement of municipal services such as the provision of water and electricity. Unfortunately, over years, Edo State has been denied this best practice approach to development. Rather, the state government has been obsessed with the signing of Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU), with nothing to show for these agreements. It completely neglected all of the developmental continuum crying for attention. More worrisome, is the dilapidated state of our road infrastructure. With a scarce focus on maintenance, and a deliberate attempt to jettison the idea of constructing new roads that would have added to the social capital stock and development opportunities available to our people, Edo state currently sits on a knife edge.

My fellow compatriots, Edo State has not fared well in the past three years. This is glaring because despite the receipt of colossal revenues that surpassed those of successive administrations the state is still terribly underdeveloped. The Paris Club refund, the over ₦20 billion bailout fund by the Federal government, the \$75 million World Bank loan for SEEFOR projects and the enhanced ₦82.7 billion internally generated revenue for the past 3 years are classic cases to mention. Rather than experience exponential growth, Edo State had a domestic debt profile of ₦83.2 billion as at September 2019. Presently, the state has the highest profile of external debt (\$278 million) among the South-South states, and only second to Lagos state nationally. Her debt to revenue ratio is 248.13%, overstepping the limit by 198.13%. Yet, the current Edo state government can only showcase a litany of Memorandum Of Understandings (MOUs) and feasibility studies, signed with billions of tax payers' money under the pretence of bringing different investment to Edo State. The most notable of these MOUs are those of the Gelegele Seaport, the Ologbo Modular Refinery, and the Obayantor Industrial Park which have all ended as mirages.

In sharp contrast to the action of the Edo state government, the government of Ondo state, a neighboring state, has demonstrated how a focused and sincere leadership should operate. Although one of the least affluent States in Nigeria with an average of ₦5b monthly allocation, the Ondo state government has just completed and commissioned an industrial city. The industrial hub, which is known as the Ondo-Linyi Industrial Hub, came into being as a result of the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) between Linyi City in the Shanghai Province of China and the Ondo State Government. In fact, news has it that the State Government is concerned that they might not have enough hands to man the city as the project is expected to provide over 20,000 direct jobs. By implication, youths from neighboring States are expected to flood Ondo State. The Industrial City has a Paper Mill Factory, Plywood Factory, Textile Company, the



largest Cassava Ethanol Factory in Nigeria, an Automobile Assembly Plant and Nigeria's first High Density Fibre and Marine Board Factory. Indeed, with the right leadership and a strategic plan of action, we can cultivate the right collaborations to implement people oriented projects even with limited resources.

In addition to the failed MOUs, Edo state government can only lay claim to scarce and shoddy road maintenance, in place of a holistic modernization and quite specifically road multiplication. Indeed, as we speak, the Edo State governor, in connivance with his friends has sold off Edo state Shares in the Azura Power Plant without due process or legislative imprimatur.

Despite the government's claim of dedicating 65% of its capital vote to road maintenance, majority of the roads in Benin City remain in parlous conditions. They are un-motorable death traps that transform into interim streams and rivers whenever it rains, rendering thousands of people homeless in the process. Furthermore, even with the humongous ecological funds available and the nearly 30 billion naira expended on the Benin Storm Water Project, the state's erosion control master plan, embarked upon by the previous administration remains abandoned by the current government. As erosion ravages most part of the city, the abandoned project sites have become death traps during the rains and a hideout for criminals all year round.

Unfortunately, similar situation of helplessness pervades the central and northern senatorial districts of the State.

As critical as Health and Education sectors are, they have not been accorded any significant attention in the past three years. We all know that historically, education has always been the main industry and competitive edge of our people. This is why the ill-advised policy of the current State Government to yank off education from its customary pre-eminence in the ranking of developmental priorities offends common sense. Having deviated sharply from the progressive programmes and policies of the party, the current state government introduced selfish and uneconomical programmes and policies which have resulted in huge capital flight. As our tertiary institutions remain poorly funded, the most notable activity in the education sector since the coming on board of this current administration has been the shutting down of educational institutions that were set up to improve the Agricultural, Health and the Educational sectors of the state economy. Today, we have the College of Agriculture, Iguoriakhi, closed and with staff sacked, the Tayo Akpata University of Education, Ekiadolor, locked up, with staff members and students left to idle away. The continuous closure of the functional College of Education in Igueben, Michael Imodu College of Physical Education, Afuze, the College of Agriculture Technology, Agenebode and the state School of Nursing, Benin city, bears testimony to the insensitivity of the state government in building institutions. Today, staff and students as well as the host communities continue to count their losses as these critical sectors remain in a deplorable state.

The only contribution this government made in the education sector for the past three years is the yet uncompleted renovation of the Benin Technical College whose budget is about ₦10million per classroom. Even this was done with the Universal Basic Education (UBEC) funds, to which the Federal Government made 60 percent counterpart contribution that the state government has never acknowledged, an attitude which smacks off deceit. Beyond this, nothing else of note has been accomplished in a critical sector as education.

While the scant in-service retraining for teachers was deliberately and fraudulently designed to enrich a few, it has failed to meet its objectives and has also been grossly inadequate and lacking the potency to meet up with existing realities. There has been no effort aimed at increasing access to education for vulnerable youths, and no recruitment of teachers. Many of the teachers have retired from service, thus resulting in the shortage of teaching personnel in Edo schools which has adversely affected the quality and standard of education in the State. This leaves several of our primary and secondary schools especially in the rural areas with just one or two teachers. Indeed, data from the National Universities Commission (NUC) indicates that the Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, remains one of the least funded state-owned university in the country.

Health care delivery was also not spared in the neglect and decay of the past three years. As a result, Edo State now has some of the worst health care indicators among the southern states. The Edo Specialist

Hospital which was built, equipped and commissioned before the coming on board of this current government has remained shut for the past 3 years. Only recently, without due process, the Edo state government gave up this hospital that was constructed with Edo tax payers money, to a non-Edo indigene who now charges exorbitant fees, way beyond what the average Edo person can afford. By implication, the objective of providing affordable and quality health care for Edo people have been defeated. Efforts by civil society groups in Edo State to ascertain the true status of the hospital was met with attacks by state sponsored thugs who beat up journalists and members of the civil societies during a peaceful protest.

The state's infant mortality rate cannot be ascertained due to lack of data, while the maternal mortality rate of 814 per 100,000 births exceeds the national averages of 70 and are some of the highest rates in Southern Nigeria. The HIV/AIDS prevalence of 1.9% in Edo State exceeds the prevailing national average of 1.4% by 0.5%, which translates to nearly 28,000 more people living with HIV/AIDS, compared with at least 18 states in the country. These ugly health care statistics are indicative of the steep reduction in access to quality health care by our people, no thanks to the near complete abandonment of primary health care by this administration. The Primary Health Care Centres that the administration inherited are in a decrepit and miserable condition. Where they exist, they lack drugs, and are manned by a few poorly trained, under-paid and unmotivated health personnel. The number of physicians and nurses in Edo State are 0.49 and 1.15 per 10,000-population respectively. With only two surgeons and no anesthetist serving over 3.2 million persons, the state ranks among the lowest on the African continent by the World Health Organization (WHO) standards.

The situation in the Agricultural sector leaves too much to be desired. The over ₦2B supposedly invested in Sobe farms, in Sobe, Owan West Local government of Edo State is a complete hoax. The farm was established as a drainpipe to siphon the scarce resources of Edo people into the pockets of government agents, her cronies and surrogates in the guise of Agric vendors from other states.

In a similar light, the 2018 CBN Agricultural Credit Scheme (CACS) of ₦5B, a loan, meant to assist farmers in clearing their farmlands and increasing their yields in the State remains unaccounted for. While the government of Edo state claims to have expended a whopping ₦2.8B in clearing of farmlands, Edo farmers continue to await the said lands for cultivation. The names, phone numbers and location of the farmers to whom the balance of ₦2.2B was shared have remained a mystery. This is a loan which the state government is paying back monthly with deductions being made at source from the Federation account.

Youth unemployment and under-employment is a huge nightmare in the state, with 8 out of 10 qualified youths unable to find jobs. Data from the National Bureau of Statistics show that Edo State has a high rate of youth unemployment at 25.1%. The rate of unemployment in Edo state increased from 19.6% to 25.1% in the same quarter of 2019. This is contrary to the promise of creating 200,000 jobs. The Governor has been unable to replace those he retired from service. His promise to revamp all moribund state owned businesses (Bendel Breweries, Okpella Cement Factory, Ewu Flourmill, Michelin, Edo Transport Service etc.) has failed. Worse still, the functional government establishment he inherited (Edo Broadcasting Service, Nigerian Observer, Stella Obasanjo and the Central Hospital whose extension he has refused to make functional) have literally collapsed while private businesses continue to fold-up because of the hostile business climate deliberately created and passionately nurtured by this administration.

Unless the government decides to set up industries or create an enabling environment for investors to establish viable industries in Edo State, the present high rate of youth unemployment in the state will continue unabated. This unemployment situation, largely accounts for the prevailing incidence of youth restiveness, which manifests in high rates of armed robbery, kidnapping, thuggery and cultism. Edo State is now literally a sanctuary for disgruntled youths who invariably vent their frustration and anger over their social marginalization on law abiding and hardworking citizens.

The state of insecurity assumed its peak when Governor Obaseki cultivated and nurtured a habit of fanning the embers of divisive politics by making unguarded statements particularly with words and phrases as "crush", and "my second term is non-negotiable" respectively. His determination to physically assault any fellow party faithful who aspires to run for governor or is not willing to support his ambition has created a tense and volatile environment.

What to do?

This dangerous trend can only be reversed by a change in leadership that would be tolerant of different views, accommodating and committed to peaceful engagement. We need a competent and purposeful government that can formulate the appropriate policies, create the framework and design programs to empower our youths.

The essential key to our agenda is **A STRUGGLE FOR TRUE DEMOCRACY** that locates the people at its epicenter. It is only through honest change, from the old ways of doing things, that we can end the sufferings of our people and improve the business environment for genuine local and foreign direct investments. We shall use the **"SIMPLE Agenda"** to bring economic and social justice to all, irrespective of political, religious or ethnic inclinations.

Dear compatriots, now is the time to fight for freedom from political tyranny, rapid and unsustainable accumulation of domestic and external debts as a burden for generations yet unborn, and reckless misuse of our scarce communal resources.

In line with established global best practices, we have decided to roll out a simplified model of a long-term people-centric economic growth and empowerment plan. Henceforth, the emancipation of our people will no longer be condoned or tolerated. Our **"SIMPLE Agenda"** will halt and reverse the dwindling fortunes of our youths, women, and pensioners. Right now we are on the wrong path and we definitely need a new direction. I am passionate about the progress of our state especially as I was born in the state and have lived here ever since.

Who is Pastor Osagie Ize-lyamu?

I am a direct descendant of Chief Odia, Iyase n'ohenmwun to Oba Osemwende who hailed from Iguododo in Orhionmwon Local Government Area. He was known in his days as the most loyal and reliable Iyase of Benin Kingdom (Prime Minister). Chief Iyamu, my great grandfather, who was the Inneh of Benin, built the first storey building in Midwest Region (Egedege N'okaro) in 1906. My father, his grandson, Chief Robert Osayande Ize-lyamu, Esogban of Benin Kingdom, in 1984 donated one of his houses at No. 32 Erie Street, Benin City to be used as the secretariat of the Movement for the Creation of Edo State which was chaired by His Royal Majesty, the Oba of Benin, Oba Erediauwa. I attended Ebenezer Primary School, Benin City from where I proceeded to Edo College, Benin City and later, the prestigious University of Benin where I obtained a degree in Law. Thereafter, I attended the Nigerian Law School, Lagos and was called to the Nigerian Bar. I am a Pastor, Farmer and Businessman. I am happily married with four children.

I have been privileged to serve the state as Special Assistant to the Chairman of the old Oredo Local Government Council (Oredo, Egor and Ikpoba Okha) from 1988 to 1989, Chief of Staff to the Governor, 1999 to 2003 and Secretary to Edo State Government from 2003 to 2007. These positions, which I held creditably and without blemish, have given me a unique insight into the workings of government. Indeed, I am acutely aware of the importance of electing an experienced and competent state Chief Executive who would stay focused on the discharge of his duties. That is why, I, Pastor Dr. Osagie Ize-lyamu Esq., seek your mandate by contesting for the post of the Governor of Edo State. I am of the strong conviction that our greater tomorrow, the future upon which we rest our hope, is now. The road ahead will be long, but with God's grace upon us, no matter the challenges that may accompany this journey; we shall fix our eyes on that horizon.

God's time is now, as such, Edo Must Move Forward. I am willing, able and READY!



Toward Effective Resource Mobilization

Before undertaking a detailed description of how the **SIMPLE Agenda** will be implemented, we will like to address the relevant question of resource mobilization and fund raising.

In these days of severe national economic downturn, a relevant question is:

Where would an emerging administration find the resources to implement a new and progressive agenda for up-lifting Edolites from a condition of want and poverty to one of prosperity and life more abundant?

For me, those who complain that resources are not enough should understand that there is never a time that resources would ever be enough. I have the experience to attract FDIs and other multilateral agencies such as the World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Department for International Development (DFID), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), MacArthur Foundation and many others to Edo state. Many of them are already in this country working in some places. IFAD for example is already in some parts of the Niger Delta doing a lot in agriculture. We will localize them and advance their goals for our people and they will be happy to collaborate with us.

Some of the new steps that we would take to mobilize the needed resources (human, financial and technological) for governing the State include the following:

- The establishment of an **Economic Management Team (EMT)** that includes the best minds in the industry – and a team leader that has the credentials to perform in a holistic and broad based manner, not one that will promote extortive taxation as the only means of revenue derivation.
- Within 6 months of our coming into office, we will convene an international EDO Development Summit that will sell the EDO brand to investors both at home and abroad. We will reach out to them to support our efforts to re-build a new and prosperous Edo State.
- Our economic model will be based on diversification – to harness the immense economic potentials that abound in the state. These include agriculture, solid minerals, oil and gas, cultural products and tourism.
- We will invest in mechanized agriculture, provide agricultural extension services and promote agro-based industries that will help add value to agricultural produce and at the same time engage a sizable percentage of our people in gainful employment.
- Taxation will remain a veritable part of revenue generation in our government. However, our administration's policy on taxation will be pursued alongside a wealth creation policy that will bring about economic empowerment of the people so as to promote happiness among the greater majority of the people.
- We will plug financial leakages, improve efficiency in public expenditure and build a robust and sustainable financial base for the state.
- For the first time in the annals of public administration in Edo State, our government will institutionalize a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (**M&E**) mechanism to track public programmes and project implementation in the state.
- We will establish a team of experts that will link Edo State to the opportunities created by the new donor funding under the Sustainable Development Goals that was recently pronounced for global development from 2015-2030 by the United Nations. We will reach out to donor organizations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Ford Foundation, United Nations Development Fund, Macarthur Foundation, World Health Organization, and bilateral/multilaterals such as USAID, DFID, JICA and NORAD.

“The purpose of government is the pursuance of happiness for the greater majority of the people. The Government of Edo State under my leadership will strive to meet this purpose at all times. We will serve the needs of the good people of Edo State efficiently, effectively and fairly through good governance that is geared towards solving social problems”.

Our Agenda is SIMPLE; “Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated” - Confucius.

The **SIMPLE Agenda** is an acronym for:

- S** - Security and Social Welfare
- I** - Infrastructural Development/Urban Renewal
- M** - Manpower Development and Training
- P** - Public Private Partnership (PPP)
- L** - Leadership by example
- E** - Employment creation and social empowerment Scheme

S: SECURITY AND SOCIAL WELFARE

1) Security

Although the potentials of the state are huge in terms of our ability to attract tourists, investments and quality jobs, but the current security situation in the state makes the realization of these potentials unrealistic and unattainable. Many of those in diaspora have demonstrated their willingness to come home and invest their skills and material resources for the state's development, given proper incentives. Unfortunately, the current level of insecurity in the state makes the realization of its full economic potentials a pipe dream.

We will provide an enabling environment for our people so that they can channel investments back to our state.

- A global best practice approach to security delivery, involving all stakeholders in our communities and the use of well-trained and motivated personnel will be adopted to make Edolites sleep with their two eyes closed once again.
- Edo State under our charge will build a new security architecture.
- This is the 21st century, so we must think and act accordingly. In this regard, the creation of an emergency system like 911 will be uppermost in our plans to address insecurity in the state.
- Adequate materials and institutional support for the Police and other security agencies in the state will be provided.
- **Edo State Security Trust Fund** which will be established as a special purpose vehicle to mobilize funding for the security agencies on a sustainable basis.
- Community policing Program involving neighborhood watch and vigilante groups will be established in rural and urban areas.
- We will partner with the traditional rulers, village heads, school authorities and religious organizations in our quest to find a pragmatic and lasting solution to kidnapping and frequent brawls at public places.



2) Social Welfare

- Our administration will develop a comprehensive plan to make social welfare programs work for our people. Every resident of Edo State will be allotted a personalized life time Social Security Number.
- Social welfare offices will be set up in the three senatorial districts. They will be empowered by law

to adjudicate on matrimonial problems and help resolve them through family counseling and mediating services.

- We are all living witnesses to the deplorable irregularity that attends the payment to pensioners in the state. All these will become a thing of the past once we assume office.
- Appropriate legislation and initiatives that will protect the vulnerable and disabled persons in our state from discrimination and exploitation will be enacted.
- An Edo State Employment Bureau (ESEB) will be established. This bureau will be responsible for identifying the unemployed in the state and capturing them in a database that would include their qualifications.
- Policies that will protect widows and children of the deceased from harassment and intimidation will be initiated and enforced. Under such policies, provision will be made to ensure that widows and children have easier access to the estate, pension and other assets or benefits of the deceased.
- Child labor and abuse will be discouraged and we shall stimulate proper enlightenment of the provision of the child protection law and ensure its enforcement.

I: INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT & URBAN RENEWAL

The main objective of the infrastructural development and urban renewal programme will be to bequeath to the state, physical structures and facilities that will promote decent living standards for our people. Our integrated approach to development will be stepped-up in every area from modern Information Technology infrastructure to new ways of building public works systems. This would be accompanied with cost and resource effectiveness to eliminate wastages, promote skills development and bequeath a state-of-the-art infrastructure that future generations will utilize and be proud of.

1) Roads and Drains

Our goal is to have all major roads and streets within Benin City and all local government headquarters asphalted and in most cases, with accompanying walkways, drains and street lights, in an unprecedented urban renewal scheme that will be embarked upon.

- Emphasis will be placed on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of existing road networks with a view to bringing the various communities back to life and improving environmental sanitation, public health and security of life and property.
- Strategic roads, linking communities with major roads and serving as alternative routes will be identified and asphalted.
- All on-going projects will be completed to ensure value for taxpayers' money.
- The rehabilitation of roads, particularly in the Local Government Councils shall be a policy directive to the Local Government Council Chairmen and this will be implemented in conjunction with the State Government.
- Communities shall be encouraged to embark on self-help projects to which the LGAs and the state government shall contribute meaningfully.
- In specific terms, adequate funding will be extended to roads and drains within the local



government areas. We will deploy both primary and secondary drains that will properly channel floodwaters.

- We shall review the Benin Storm Water Project and ensure it is completed within a reasonable period to address the problem of perennial flooding in the state capital.
- The erosion reclamation projects and sites in the state will be diligently tackled to their completion stage and we shall honour all outstanding obligations to the World Bank and other relevant agencies.
- As part of our deliberate plan to create new towns and settlements around Benin City, a second bridge to link Upper St. Saviour and Ikpoba Hill will be constructed.
- We will extend the Airport Road construction to continue across the bridge to Evbuodia-Utagba Village to join Ekenwan Barrack road by Ojemai farms.
- Traversing Auchi (Polytechnic gate) in South Ibie to Ekperi, Agenebode, Anegbete, Ugboha and Uromi will be a new experience for motorists. These roads will open up several communities and will boost socio-economic integration between Edo North and Edo Central Senatorial districts.
- We shall construct some **overhead bridges** in strategic locations across the state to decongest and ease traffic flow.
- A major plank of our infrastructural development programme is to use it for job creation. Therefore, we will contact some reputable construction firms to station their plant and machinery in each of the three Senatorial Districts for ease of mobilization and deployment. As part of the contractual agreement, such contractors must draw their labor (skilled and unskilled) from the host communities as a direct approach to employment generation.
- Edo State Road Maintenance Agency with full complements of earth moving equipment will be established.

2) Electrification

- The aim of the “**SIMPLE Agenda**” is to reduce rural to urban migration. Therefore, the deregulation of electricity supply and maintenance notwithstanding, we shall give priority to rural electrification through the provision of transformers, feeder pillars, poles and other equipment to bring electricity to the doorsteps of rural dwellers so as to enhance local economic and social activities.
- Specifically, all towns, villages, and communities across the state will be connected to the national grid in a sustainable manner.
- We would be willing to partner with investors in power generation in order to improve power supply in our state.
- We shall take advantage of the Embedded Power generation option, which allows us to generate up to 10 megawatts of electricity and have multiple plants to power industries in cluster areas.
- We would develop strategic partnerships with local, national and international investors to pioneer alternative renewable energy generation including solar and wind energy.
- These regeneration programmes we expect would create over **2,000** direct jobs in electricity dependent industries and would assist in creating over **1,000** new businesses in rural areas.
- We shall encourage the replacement of regular light bulbs with compact florescent light

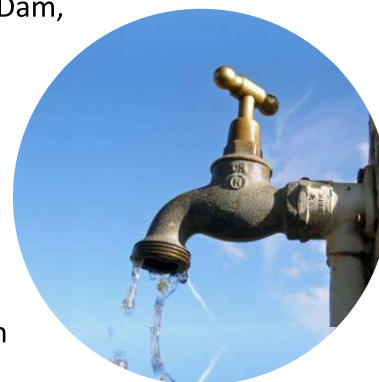


(CFL) bulbs so as to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.

- Reduce global warming by encouraging residents to turn off lights when not in use.

3) Water Supply

- Our government will reform and invest in Edo State Urban Water Board to boost the provision of potable drinking water across the state.
- We will de-emphasize the present over-reliance on borehole water. To this end, we shall embark on the construction of public water works in selected community clusters across the state, and vigorously embark on the following plans:
 - Resuscitation, expansion and modernization of all existing Water Scheme s, such as Ikpoba River Dam, Ugbialo Water Works, Ojirami Dam, and others across the state.
 - We shall employ experts and professionals to advise government on the best hygienic conditions for drilling borehole water for domestic use and irrigation.
 - We shall also vigorously pursue international funding for major water projects in our determination to revamp the public water works department.
 - The Water problem in most parts of Edo Central will be given top priority and will be vigorously addressed and solved.
 - These modernization policies and programmes are expected to hel p generate at least 10,000 new construction jobs and safeguard over 3,000 jobs over a four-year period.



4) Healthcare

“A Comprehensive Healthcare Policy” will be formulated and implemented to replace the current healthcare system of Edo State that is in shambles. We shall harmonize the Federal, State and Local Government health care plans and incorporate the **National Strategic Health Development Plan (NSHDP) II, 2018-2022**.

We are glad to observe that the current state government has copied this plan (though without credit to us) with the resultant effect that Edo state was one of the first 6 states to benefit from the ₦55billion Basic Healthcare Provision Fund.

Edo State will develop her Strategic Health Development Plan termed “**Simple Strategic Health Development Plan**”. The major objectives of the healthcare programme under the “Simple Strategic Health Development Plan” are listed below:

- To set targets for intervention to reduce the prevalence of communicable and non-communicable diseases as well as the prevalence of child and maternal morbidity and mortality.
- To increase life expectancy through an integrated, reformed, restructured and functional health care system.
- To provide the personnel, manpower and institutions that will assist our people by ensuring access to good healthcare delivery.
- To ensure that the good effect of all these services are felt by all, irrespective of their location and socio-economic status.
- To set up a functional disease control agency for surveillance, monitoring and evaluation of diseases such as HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and leprosy amongst others. This agency



will be called the **Edo State Centre for Disease Control**.

- To encourage public/private partnership by promoting private sector participation, standardization and compliance.
- To establish appropriate regulatory institutions to set standards, monitor and enforce compliance.
- To ensure that the state's "**Simple Strategic Health Development Plan**" and health services are delivered through these channels, the following will be reorganized or constructed:

a) Primary Health Care (PHC)

Primary/Rural Health Centers are situated in rural communities. They are poorly staffed, managed and therefore underutilized. The implementation of **PHC** will be carried out through services at the various primary health centers and through home visits.

To achieve this,

- All existing Primary Health Centers will be equipped, adequately staffed with qualified personnel and made functional.
- We will provide continuous education concerning prevailing health problems and the methods of preventing and controlling them.
- We will provide maternal, newborn and child health care, including
 - -Family planning;
 - -Effective prevention and control for locally endemic and epidemic diseases e.t.c.
- We will provide appropriate treatment for common diseases and injuries as well as the provision of essential drugs.
- We will provide an enabling environment and strategies to include community mobilization and advocacy, service integration, health research, capacity building, and international and non-governmental collaboration.
- We will provide a system whereby sick patients can be transferred to secondary and tertiary healthcare systems (provision of ambulances and motorboat ambulances especially for those in the riverine communities).
- Our government will set up the Edo State Ambulance Service for emergencies and accident responses and ensure that it is functional and effective.

i. Rural healthcare

- As part of our desire to make healthcare accessible to all, we shall provide at least 18 mobile health service buses to provide vital healthcare to our people in rural towns and villages in partnership with Local Government authorities.

ii. Cottage Hospitals

- Cottage Hospitals are located in Local Government Headquarters to deal with cases that cannot be treated at the health care centre. In addition, they will provide beds for patients whose cases are referred and where necessary, refer such patients to the General or Specialist Hospitals for expert care.

iii. General/Specialist Hospital

- General or Specialist Hospitals located in senatorial zones to serve as referral hospitals will be greatly improved.
- The present General Hospitals all over the state will be given face lifts to meet the increasing health challenges faced by our people.

- We will deal with the problem of inadequate manpower in the health sector and improve the working conditions of doctors, nurses and other health workers to motivate them and improve their service delivery capabilities.
- We will provide drugs and other hospital equipment to ensure that the health sector meets the new Sustainable Development Goals.

b) Environmental Health and Sanitation

Edo state presently has less than 10% forest cover which is some way off the United Nations recommendation of at least 25%.

- We will leverage on the opportunity made available by the United Nations and the World Bank to gain enough carbon credit through carbon sequestration by planting more trees. This will not only ensure a healthier environment, but would also bestow additional source of revenue for the state.
- We shall enact a comprehensive environmental management policy and ensure strict compliance.
- We will ensure that every person in Edo State is encouraged to plant at least 5 trees a year, which comes to over 10 million trees annually.

Furthermore, we will ensure that our waste management is handled in a more professional and efficient manner by emphasizing **re-cycling and re-use**.

- Edo State government presently has three (3) functional compactor trucks. This is grossly inadequate even for the state capital. More trucks will be procured and reputable waste managers engaged to keep the state clean.
- A sustainable and scientific waste management system, which would include the use of engineering dump site, that prevents the pollution of underground water shall be employed.



c) Fire Service

We are seriously concerned about the Edo Fire Service responses to critical fire incidences, particularly within our major cities. The Uwelu Spare Parts market, Oliha market, Santana market, Osa market, and the Urhokpota fire disasters all within 8 months have exposed the terrible state of our fire service and the government's disdain for the common man hinged on her failure to respond and prepare for future incidences. Therefore, we will:

- Modernize, scale up and enhance the capacity of Edo State Fire Service to respond effectively to critical fire incidents within 30 minutes in our cities.
- Every major market in the state will be reformed to accommodate a fire service unit.



These units will serve as a branch of the state fire service.

- We will set up dedicated water reservoirs in some areas of the state for the refill of water tanks of fire service trucks.
- These policies would help to create over **3,000** additional new jobs and safeguard 5,000 existing jobs in the sector.

d) Housing

The “**SIMPLE**” Agenda will encourage the Public-Private-Partnership initiative in the provision of decent housing units for people in the state.

- Government will supply quality housing through a policy for social housing for the poor and the vulnerable, and develop affordable houses for workers in the state.
- Access to affordable mortgages at single-digit interest rates will be pursued.
- We shall create new Government Reservation Areas (**G.R.A**) by allocating land, providing infrastructure (including road networks) and inviting reputable developers to take over such areas at reasonable cost to government and the affected communities.
- These policies would lead to the creation of additional **10,000** new construction related jobs in the economy.



M: MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

“The most valuable of all capital is that invested in human beings” - Alfred Marshall, Principles of Economics Manpower development is the most critical aspect of the **SIMPLE** agenda. This is what many countries have realized and have leveraged to attain greatness. The greatest resource any state has is its people. As such, deliberate efforts must be made in developing their capacities.



1) Education

The programme on education under our stewardship will ensure that no Edo child is left behind. Edo State Government under our leadership will provide free and compulsory education from primary school to junior secondary school. The Edo State education programme will be driven by a determination to train Edo people to be skilled and competitive both nationally and globally through the adoption of the use of modern pedagogical methods including ICT and multi-media platforms.

Our education policy will reflect the following objectives:

- To train our youths in science, engineering, finance, commerce, entrepreneurship, management information and communication technology that will lead the state's drive for prosperity and economic development;
- To make every citizen a literate that is able to communicate in our lingua franca as well as in their mother tongue.

- To go beyond the cosmetic painting of classroom blocks and ensure adequate provision of chairs and tables and relevant learning materials in both primary and secondary schools. We will encourage the development of sports and libraries.
- To motivate teachers through proper remuneration, prompt payment of salaries and emoluments and continued training and re-training.
- To vigorously pursue the re-introduction of boarding facilities in public secondary schools across the state, as this will inculcate leadership qualities in our youths.
- To encourage the interest of students in science and technology and reward outstanding students with full scholarship.
- To ensure the availability of science laboratories in all Senior Secondary Schools and Art and Crafts workshops in Junior Secondary Schools.
- To support teachers in their quest to up-grade themselves to ensure high standards in the education sector.
- To emphasize technical and vocational training so as to improve on the skills and entrepreneurial development of school leavers. Appropriate incentives will be offered to attract students to technical and vocational training in a bid to discourage the over-dependence on tertiary education.
- To re-activate and provide contemporary facilities, equipment and teaching aids to all existing Technical Schools in the state. We will construct modern toilet facilities in our schools.
- Improve on the technical training centres; integrated with skill acquisition, cottage agro-processing and other related small-scale production outfits in each of the senatorial districts for the training of the relevant technical and skilled manpower, to drive all aspects of our economic policies.
- To make ICT and entrepreneurship compulsory components of our policy at all levels of our educational system.
- To provide all government secondary schools with computer laboratories.
- From JSS 1, every child would be exposed to skill acquisition as part of the school system. They would pick 4 different skills from a wide range of skills that may include Carpentry, Catering, Fashion design, Painting as well as Digital skills, Music, Healthcare, Tiling, etc. From SSI, they would then be required to pick only one and specialize.
- We shall create an education and business partnership framework to give students the opportunity to develop the skills and qualities needed for work. In their last year of SS3, these students will undergo a compulsory four weeks work experience placement.
- By the time the child is graduating from SS3, he/she would have a DIPLOMA in one skill set and a WAEC certificate on the other hand. Such a child would be ready for a future of productivity. The DIPLOMA would be the collateral to obtaining a small business loan to get started in life as a professional and to be a viable human being- able to fend for themselves even if they choose not to go on to a university.
- We are committed to raising education standards and achievements in schools through a rigorous quality inspection, monitoring and support regime.
- These policies would enable the creation of **10,000** sustainable new jobs in the economy

1) Higher and Professional Education

The basic objective of higher and professional education is to improve the capability of young people to identify, formulate and handle scientifically complex problems as well as to critically

evaluate information and formulate possible solutions. It also provides leadership and management manpower for the growth and development of the country. Therefore, we shall ensure total overhaul of the existing state tertiary institutions, increase their subvention, improve their personnel and upgrade their infrastructure and facilities.

2) **Bursary**

We shall embark on a comprehensive census of Edo undergraduates in all higher institutions across the country with a view to determining a reasonable, realistic and sustainable annual bursary award to them to promote their educational attainment.

- Our government will run an inclusive educational system and prioritize the provision of tailored education and learning to people with special needs, physical and mental challenges, in order to ensure equality of access and opportunities in life for all regardless of their circumstance.
- **In-Service Training**
Our government will invest in ICT skills training and capacity up-skilling of all government staff to the International Computer Driving License Standards (ICDLS). Our government would actively encourage private sector businesses and industries to likewise invest in up-skilling their staff ICT skills and capacity, which will enable them to maximize accrued advantages in this digital age.
- Our government will encourage applied industrial development and cutting edge technology research. We will encourage industries to build partnerships with our tertiary institutions.

3) **Youth Development and Sports**

Edo State had a history of sporting glory until recently. The “SIMPLE” Agenda will treat youth, sports, recreation and cultural activities as a business model for job and wealth creation. Edo State must be made to regain her premier position in sports in the country. Special funding will be allocated to improve facilities, hire coaches and motivate sports men and women to attain national and international excellence in sports. Some of the specific activities that we would implement for sports development include the following:

- Young people will be encouraged to create businesses in youth development, sports, recreation, and cultural activities. In collaboration with donor agencies, NGOs, corporate bodies, and financial institutions, government will create platforms where young people can access financial assistance for such businesses across the 18 Local Government Areas of the state.
- Government will re-introduce school sports in all public and private primary and secondary schools in the state, as this will enable us identify young talents for national competitions in furtherance of the restoration of the state's lost glory in sporting activities.
- Insurance Football Club and other sports clubs and associations will be given special consideration and government will partner with reputable stakeholders to sponsor and promote these clubs.
- In partnership with the private sector, we will re-introduce the Ogbe Hard-Court Tennis Championship as an annual event to boost Sports Tourism.
- To reclaim our leading role in boxing, we shall renovate and re-equip the boxing gymnasiums located in the State.
- We shall collaborate with reputable sports marketing companies to establish sports academies in the state, as this is capable of gainfully engaging many of our youths.

- We shall resuscitate, refurbish and expand the games village in Afuze.
- Our government will promote mainstream equality in sports including encouraging gender parity and disabled equality in participation across a range of sports.

P: PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP)

Edo State Government under our leadership will embark on wealth creation for the citizens of the state through the uncommon embrace of the public private partnership paradigm to bring about economic prosperity in various sectors of the state's economy:

(1) Industrialization

A strong and prosperous Edo State will depend on a vibrant and growing manufacturing sector that can create competitive advantages in the midst of rapid technological change and globalization of markets, production and innovation. Manufacturing is an antidote for unemployment, a creator of wealth and a harbinger of sustainable development.



The primary objective of the industrialization program of government will be to accelerate the pace of industrial development in the state by leveraging private financing through Public-Private-Partnership. In doing this, the focus will be:

- To re-examine the state existing public and private industries with a view to resuscitating their activities, ensuring profitable operations and increasing employment opportunities.
- Establish one functional Industrial Park in each Senatorial District
- Establish an Export Processing Zone as an industrial and commercial hub
- Mentor the Local Government to establish an Industrial Cluster in their jurisdiction
- To stimulate the growth and development of a culture of industrial production and entrepreneurship in the state.
- We intend through PPP to establish a refinery in Ikpoba-Okha because of the oil fields in that locality and its proximity to Koko Port. We also intend through the same PPP to establish a gas plant at Oben in Orhiomwon because of the abundant gas in that area.
- To sponsor an executive bill to create Edo State Investment Promotion Commission (**ESIPC**) to drive inward investments, entrepreneurship support and development.

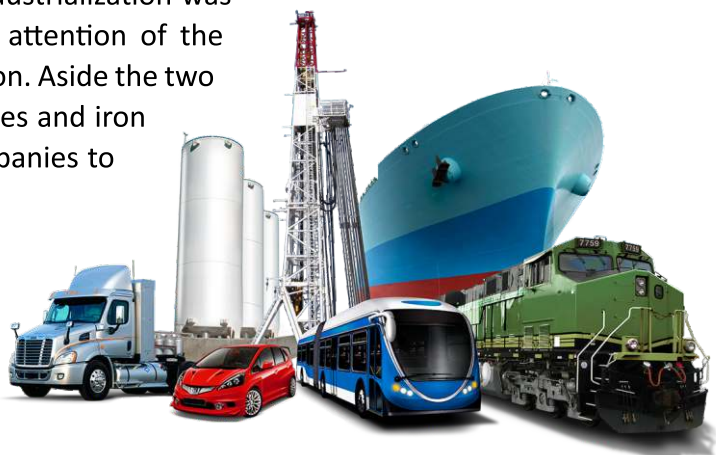
Multilateral non-concessional and concessional finance from international organizations, bilateral non-concessional and concessional finance from other governments (such as EU and other sources), and commercial finance (from banks, capital market bonds, and public-private partnership finance) will **ONLY** be entered into if it is beneficial to Edo people and will not jeopardize public financing in the near or longer term. The practice of irresponsible and unwarranted borrowing that could mortgage the future of Edo will be discontinued.

- Industrial parks, akin to the present Technology Incubation Centers (TIC) will be established in each of the senatorial districts.
- A furniture-manufacturing cluster that will combine workshop units, factory spaces, large-scale manufacturing facilities as well as a retail unit for business-to-business and business-to-consumer sales in one location will be established in Egor/Ikpoba-Okha axis.
- We will establish a garment-manufacturing cluster.
- We will exploit the growing demand for African clothes abroad and make our state a major exporter of well-designed African clothes.

- The state is blessed with abundant solid minerals like limestone, feldspar, kaolin, gold, lignite, Iron ore, gypsum, bitumen and traces of bentonic clay, which can be commercially exploited through **PPP**.
- A Solid minerals cluster will also be created in Edo North to cater for those in the chemical and allied industry; while the fruit growers in Uhunmwode and Orhionmwon Local Government Areas will also be encouraged.
- Edo Central, which is renowned for rice, will play host to the grain cluster. The Agro-Cluster will be established in a central location to take care of the plantain and other farm produce.
- Our government will work with the Edo State Chambers of Commerce and Industry to provide support, information, business startups and growth capacity enhancement programmes across the three senatorial districts.
- Our government will partner with stakeholders, banks and financial institutions to resuscitate and revamp the state owned industries including the Fertilizer plant, Auch; Cassavita Industry, Uromi; Ava Cement Factory, Akoko-Edo; Fruit Juice Factory, Ehor; Bendel Brewery, Benin and Ewu FOlour Mill to mention but a few. This policy would create additional 3000 direct jobs and sustain over **5,000** related jobs in the economy.

2) Transport

- We shall liaise with the Federal government in partnership with private investors to expand or relocate the Benin Airport in order to meet the demands of the imminent industrial revolution in the state.
- Our government will partner with stakeholders and investors to develop all sea routes linking Edo State with other states.
- To facilitate this process, government will form a consortium with sound and tested partners and investors in collaboration with the Federal Government to dredge the Gelegele River and make it a viable modern seaport. This policy will create over 50,000 new jobs and with improved roads, light grid, bridges and water, a seaport can force a number of new cities to spring forth.
- Our government will also seek technical partners and investors to develop and extend railway lines to the three senatorial districts. This would help to provide a transportation solution for investment and trade.
- The Benin bypass and Okene-Auchi-Benin highway are some of the strategic roads that we would actively engage the Federal Government to complete without further delay. The Benin bypass is one of the most significant developments in the state even if its full potential in terms of promoting industrialization was not envisioned. We will draw the attention of the Federal government to its completion. Aside the two Chinese firms producing ceramic tiles and iron rods, we will encourage other companies to establish there.
- The Sapele road to Oluku axis of the bypass needs to be completed having been partially awarded



to an indigenous contractor in 2009.

- We will establish two modern trailer parks (complete with workshops, gas stations, rest rooms and catering facilities) for articulated vehicles – one at Oluku-Ore road and the other at Aviele, along Benin-Auchi Road to deal with the problem of indiscriminate highway parking and its attendant road risks.
- We are committed to effective alleviation of poverty and financial hardship across board and in pursuance of this goal, we shall provide free public transportation (via public buses) for children in primary and secondary schools.
- Edo line will be revived and made fully operational while Edo City Transport Service (ECTS) will be strengthened to cover more communities, so as to foster collective integration for all citizens.

(3) **Taxation**

Taxation is very important as a major source of internally generated revenue especially in the face of dwindling oil earnings. However, we will review the present tax policy, which is harsh, punitive and discriminatory, and stop unnecessary duplication of taxes, as a simpler tax regime will encourage compliance. We will be transparent, fair and innovative in our tax policy.

(4) **Diaspora Engagement**

- We will constructively engage with our citizens in Diaspora to harness the potentials in financial and intellectual investment targets. In particular, we will actively welcome their partnership in our public private sector engagement and collaboratively promote their offer to expand private philanthropy.
- We will set an investment target of 5000 hours per year in the area of medical missions, sport diplomacy, and other areas of volunteer work. We will encourage more direct intervention projects from Diaspora by way of direct investment in local businesses or green spring projects by facilitating channels for Diaspora investments into transparent businesses.
- We will organize a Diaspora Investment Forum and explore the opportunity of a Diaspora Bond. Adequate energy will be devoted to constructive partnership with the Edos in Diaspora.

5) **Agriculture and Rural Development**

The centerpiece of Edo State agricultural policy shall be the empowerment of small-scale farmers and the promotion of commercial farming. Both sets of farmers will be supported with certified high yield seeds or stocks, effective rural development, rural infrastructure, stable energy supply, agricultural credit, marketing and processing arrangements, research and training backup, and quality control. The agricultural policy will create and expand job opportunities by intervening and facilitating job and wealth creation through the entire agricultural value chain.

Impact will be in:

- Climate smart agricultural techniques in a bid to reduce greenhouse emissions
- Production and supply of agricultural inputs.
- Production of food/ fibers for man and industries.
- Processing and value addition.
- Packaging and marketing.
- Production of the local raw materials

for the industrial sector

- a. Young graduates and school leavers



will be trained as “agriprenuers” to take advantage of the opportunities in any aspect of the agricultural value chain.

- b. Seed multiplication farms- livestock and fish breeding centres will be established under Public Private Partnership (PPP) to facilitate access to high yielding and disease resistant inputs, livestock (breeding stock) and fingerlings.
- c. Urban agriculture shall be an integral part of this policy to train service providers and utilize fallow lands in urban areas.
- d. We will improve village level infrastructure in terms of roads, potable water, education, health, supply chain, electricity, ICT, job creation, security in rural areas and linkage to agro markets. The overall objective is to stem the tide of rural-urban drift.
- The use of agriculture as a vehicle for economic development and job creation.
- Improvement of the livelihoods of the host communities through access to microcredit scheme and other Local Economic Development (LED) programmes.
- Production of High-yielding crops
- Farm settlements, complete with training institutes, processing facilities, tractors, and in-farm housing units in each of the three senatorial districts, with the sole intent to produce for local and international markets will be set up.
- Diversifying and boosting the state's revenue base through proceeds from agricultural produce.
- Creation of special units for packaging for export in order to earn foreign exchange
- Encouragement of young graduates and school leavers to cultivate the required raw materials for the agro-processing factories to be established in different parts of the State.
- Revamping of abandoned farms and ranches such as Urhonigbe Rubber Factory, Leventis Farms, Warrake Farms, the Igarra Cattle Ranch, Ubajja Goat Farms, and where necessary, creation of new ones.
- To establish an integrated Rural Development Programme designed to be complemented by auxiliary small- scale businesses with high job creation capacity.
- To deploy the existing micro-credit schemes in conjunction with the Banks of Industry and Agriculture to generate wealth and income for rural dwellers;
- To provide agricultural extension services to farmers in the state.
- To set up an **Agricultural Investment Promotion Agency** that would serve as a link between the farmers and the market place to ensure regular flow of income through ready patronage and stabilization of commodity prices.
- To identify the physically challenged and economically disadvantaged persons who are target beneficiaries of the new Micro Credit Scheme.
- Over **10,000** persons will be empowered in the first one-year of the programme.

The main areas the state will direct her attention in order to realize the above objectives are;

- A. Production of Rice-Upland and Lowland.
- B. Development of Poultry-Layers and broiler
- C. Livestock fattening program
- D. Rehabilitation of government-owned rubber plantation at Urhonigbe
- E. Development of large-scale nurseries for the supply of oil palm, cocoa and cashew seedlings.

- F. Development of homestead and artisanal fisheries especially shrimps at Gelele areas for export. Edo State has unique shrimps that are highly priced in the world market.
- G. Market Gardening/Horticultural crops production.
- H. Agricultural marketing Board/Company to bulk-purchase from farms and stores to resell.
- I. Cassava seed farms.
- J. Cassava processing
- K. Medicinal plants production and processing
- L. Sugarcane cultivation

6. Tourism

The ultimate goal of our tourism economic programme will be to capitalize on the centrality of the state to develop 'BRAND EDO', which will be built around entertainment, as well as our historical and cultural heritage. Tourism's main comparative advantage over other sectors is that visitors' expenditure has a "flow-through" or catalytic effect across the economy in terms of production and employment creation. During the construction phase of tourist accommodation and services, jobs are created. Tourism investment can generate the demand for locally produced foods, clothing, art and craft, furniture and furnishings, and capital equipment. Tourism also generates the demand for transport, telecommunication, and financial services.

In order to bring back the glory of our beloved state, we shall employ renewed ideas and strategic partnerships with experienced local and international stakeholders in the following areas:



- i. Development of Edo Tourism Master-Plan
- ii. Organization of an annual Benin Carnival
- iii. Creation of Tourism Development Zones
- iv. Convocation of Edo State Tourism Summit
- v. Creation of tourism Clusters
- vi. Identification of tourist Destinations across the state
- vii. Reclamation and Development of tourism Assets
- viii. Classification of tourist services
- ix. Local, regional and international marketing programmes
- x. Construction of a world-class shopping mall in partnership with private investors
- xi. Convocation of Annual Bronze Festival in Benin City.
- xii. Creation of holiday resorts located in sprawling environments of several hectares. This will attract big players like Hilton, Marriott and Disney. In the process we shall attract huge investments opportunities through venture capital to the state.
- xiii. We shall create the Edo State Tourism Bureau, which will operate independent of government bureaucracy to allow for operational efficiency, professionalism and global standards.
- xiv. We shall critically work on developing health, education and sports tourism to make Edo State the tourism hub of Nigeria.



- xv. We would develop a state-of-the-art film village to attract film producers, actresses, actors and other stakeholders in the entertainment industry to make films that would engender positive attitudinal changes in our youths. Thousands of jobs would be created in the process even as the creative energy of our youths will be uncorked.

7. Markets

Our agricultural products are highly sought after everywhere. Traders in other parts of Nigeria in trying to convince their customers are quick to say- "it is Edo garri, Edo banana, Edo plantain, Edo palm oil, or it is bush meat and snail from Edo state". We will take advantage of this and make the state an economic hub for our local farmers and traders. As a farmer, I can tell that the opportunities are limitless.

However, most of our markets are in terrible conditions lacking conveniences and safety. Hence, the need to rethink the way they are built and the process of management. We would develop strategic partnership with credible investors renowned for constructing markets to construct ultra-modern, as well as specialized markets for our people. We would ensure that space standards, choice of materials, structures that take cognizance of the environment as well as the fire service form the basics of the new Edo markets. We shall also encourage through PPP the construction of Shopping malls in major centres across the state.

L: LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader" -- John Quincy Adams

High moral value in the conduct of state business at all times, demonstrating discipline and leadership by example that is guided by transparency and accountability in order to restore confidence in the government will be established. Parts of the measures to be adopted include:

- An Administrative Reform through the 'Open Government and Accountable Administration' (OGAA). We shall insist on transparency, due process, accountability and competitive bidding in all government contracts.
- There shall be quick acceleration of public request seeking information from the government under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI).
- There shall be display of great foresight at all times in matters of governance and the ability to identify and solve societal problems in a transparent and creative manner.
- Emphasis on technology-enabled e-governance as a direct step to eliminate incidences of institutional corruption, as well as the modification of the tax regime as solution to the problem of corruption in the tax system.
- We shall respect the autonomy of the three arms of government, namely, the executive, legislature and the judicial and shall ensure their development, welfare and efficiency.
- We find the continuous abolition of the Edo State Customary Court of Appeal ill conceived. We shall definitely review this act and respect the rule of law.
- We shall have zero tolerance for corruption and associated vices.
- There shall be regular town hall meetings with relevant stakeholders as a way of bringing government closer to the people as well as a quarterly briefing on government activities by relevant heads of MDAs.



- Promote gender equality and women's rights by engendering Sustainable Development Goals agenda that is capable of eradicating gender-based violence
- Promote the participation and leadership of women in all aspects of decision-making and advancing their economic justice.
- Create cooperatives across the state, which will give loans to market women and farmers so as to increase productivity.
- There will be investment in long-term social and cultural change, including the engagement of faith leaders and faith-based organizations, and ensuring that support is available to NGOs working to tackle discriminatory social norms.
- We will actively engage the NGOs in all areas of governance, support their activities and collaborate with them on policy formulation and implementation.
- We intend to ensure strict supervision of council resources and expenditure. We shall however encourage financial autonomy of the local government councils and create Local Government Development Areas to fast track the development of these areas.
- We will also give freedom to Local Government Councils to function in accordance with their mandates and protect local government council chairmen from executive intimidation, constant harassment and unwarranted removal.
- We appreciate the invaluable role of our traditional institutions ably led by our royal majesty, the Oba of Benin and we intend to strengthen their offices while also ensuring improvement in their welfare.
- We will run an inclusive and continuous consultative government by listening to public opinions, views and suggestions. We will use "Edo Policy Exchange" and Town Hall meetings to engage, consult and elicit innovative ideas so as to move Edo State forward.
- We shall be receptive to the yearnings of party members who differ in opinion and respect the party hierarchy and its leaders.

E. EMPLOYMENT CREATION & SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

With the “**SIMPLE**” Agenda, we will create an enabling business environment in the state, that can attract honest investors to take advantage of all our PPP initiatives. Thousands of jobs will be created through the following government activities:

- In the execution of the various programmes of the “**SIMPLE**” Agenda, job creation components and sustainability thereof will be the critical factor in measuring performance and success.
- The goal of “**SIMPLE**” Agenda is to generate jobs from programmes, projects and activities in each of the 18 Local Government Areas.
- For the PPP industrial schemes in each of the senatorial districts, it is reckoned that each of the clusters should be capable of accommodating up to 10 separate industrial firms and would give direct employment opportunities to well over 3,000 persons and another 5,000 persons indirectly, providing the raw materials, goods and services, across the state.
- It is also planned to attract over 5,000 persons to the Farm Settlement, while at the same



time, Youth Empowerment through Agricultural and Farmer's Support Programme (YETA-FSP) will be established to support 500 youths from each of the 18 LGAs every year.

- The “**SIMPLE**” agenda will encourage and organize the business activities of host communities through the Ministry of Oil and Gas to benefit from our 'Local Content Opportunity' policy in the strategic industries of Power Generation, Oil and Gas, and Solid Minerals in line with existing federal government regulations.
- The Graduate Youth Entrepreneurial Scheme and other Micro-Credit Schemes will be redesigned and supported with matching grants from the state government and other financial development institutions such as the Bank of Industry, Bank of Agriculture, SMEDAN e.t.c. This is aimed at creating additional jobs.
- Cleanliness and Sanitation will be given priority. Thus, an efficient Waste Management System to be set up will involve integrated waste management infrastructure which has the capacity to provide over 5,000 jobs by the service providers
- Edo State has a very potent mining industry that has remained grossly unexploited in actualizing its full benefits. This area will be a key focus in the creation of jobs.
- We understand and fully recognize the role of SMEs as the engine of any economy. Our vision will be to make Edo State the best place for businesses to start and thrive. To do this we need to understand the characteristics of our small and medium sized businesses, what determines their success and what holds them back.
- While we emphasize the up-skilling and building of human capacity, we shall improve all aspects of financing and access to finance by SMEs through deliberative actions and interventions. A key priority will be to unleash the energy of the entrepreneurial spirit of Edo people who are known to be innovators of new and nascent industries.
- We recognize and salute the role of financial organizations that have been able to mobilize funds for our low-income people to access and trade and we intend to partner with these institutions by providing more funds to support more of our people.
- One of government's policy goals is to partner with financial institutions, banks, agencies of government and stakeholders to create and support a minimum of 5000 new MSMEs in the economy yearly and 20,000 over a four-year duration.

However, the sustainability of any innovation or change is based on either the country-culture, state-culture or organizational-culture. The state government in collaboration with the state chapter of the National Orientation Agency will come up with ethical ways of doing business, conducting oneself in the society, and having a positive attitude towards public properties and projects, otherwise any innovation or improvement without taking into account the inherent culture of the populace cannot be sustained. In recent history, we have seen across the Nigerian landscape where laudable projects and monuments are abandoned to rot. One of the best ways to drive this cultural change is to lead transparently by example, develop simple phrases that will be duplicated in government offices, so as to reinforce compliance. Government will have to take stock of its properties and set aside maintenance costs, as there is no point in embarking on new projects if the old ones cannot be maintained. The Nigerian polity lacks a maintenance culture. This will change.

CONCLUSION

We are optimistic that in spite of the dark clouds fueled by political intolerance and corruption, the future of our state is bright. What is needed to promote greater development and prosperity for the state is to enthrone sincere, focused, purposeful and visionary leadership. The “**SIMPLE Agenda**” addresses the issues of our state in a simple and straightforward manner so that our people can be kept abreast of the developmental processes of government in a logical and systematic fashion. As such, our performances can be measured and the results seen. We solemnly pledge that we will not betray the expectations of our people but will work diligently with the fear of God. Guided by this agenda, we will ensure its full implementation. We urge you all to trust us and vote for our party, the **APC**, in the forthcoming Edo State Gubernatorial elections. May the good Lord bless our dear state and prosper you all.

#EdoMustMoveForward



Pastor Dr. Osagie Ize-Iyamu Esq.

©2020



CONTACT

📞 08104351066, 08051921711, 08050964848

📍 37 Etete Road, GRA, Benin City.

www.pastorosagiezeiyamu.com osagiezeiyamu@yahoo.com

📘 facebook.com/pastorosagiezeiyamu 🐦 [@pastorizeiyamu](https://twitter.com/pastorizeiyamu) 📷 [@pastorizeiyamu](https://instagram.com/pastorizeiyamu)