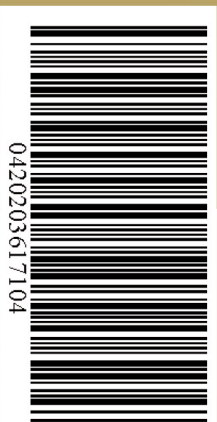


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**MAGAZINE**



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# **OBASEKI**

*Driving  
Industrialisation  
In Edo State*



*His Excellency*  
*Godwin Nogheghase*  
**OBASEKI**  
*Executive Governor of Edo State, Nigeria*



# From the Editor-in-Chief



**M**y first encounter with HE. Godwin Obaseki, was when I hosted a webinar, titled, Edo State, Striving & Surviving beyond Covid-19 pandemic, in May 2020. Despite joining the webinar a bit late because he had to attend to other state engagements, he profusely apologized for his lateness and quickly settled into his role as Key Speaker. You could easily know this is an intelligent, very honest, pro-active and forward-thinking leader, who wants the very best for his people.

Over the next couple of months, I closely followed his activities as I had grown to admire his honesty, hardwork and loyalty to his people, again, perhaps I took more interest, as I feel I have a stake in Edo State (my late Mum was born to a Benin man, Late Pa Osawe).

HE, Governor Godwin Nogheghase Obaseki, has taken a private sector mindset into a public office and has been working assiduously hard to change for the better, the lot of Edo State. From Industrialisation, which is the bedrock of any developmental progress, to healthcare, construction, electricity, social contracts, agriculture, SMEs, he has with his team given Edo State and her people, a sense of purpose and the can-do attitude, of anything and everything is possible, if you strategically focus into achieving it.

The last four years of his administration, has been all about laying solid foundations for a progressive Edo State, whilst the next four years, aptly titled M.E.G.A Manifesto, will be to consolidate on the achievements of the last four years and ensure a very bright future for Edo State.

Edo State is lucky to have a solid technocrat with people-oriented vision, to serve them in the last four years and for the next four years.

Here is to happy cheers to our Governor, Godwin Obaseki and the people of Edo State, for making the right decision to return him for another four years to serve them.



Kunle Adereki

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**Kelvin Uwaibi** Head, ESIPO

## *From Office of Head, ESIPO.*

**I**ndustrialising Edo is in the heart of Governor Godwin Obaseki led administration and will be a priority as the Governor and his deputy will be sworn in come 12th November 2020 for another four years. Experience from successful economies has shown, a well-articulated industrialization plan is a prerequisite to fast-track industrial development in any location. Hence Edo State has its ongoing 30 years development plan that captures well thought out policies and strategies to leapfrog the state's economy.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected economies in no small way which has made governments begin to think differently in proffering alternatives to mitigate the economic effect of the pandemic.

Edo State has taken bold steps by focusing on key sectors that will bounce the economy to recovery. The Agriculture and Service sector are in focus. The government is also focused on the provision of key infrastructures to increase production capacity which will place the State on a more equitable and labor absorptive growth path. The goal; long-term diversification,

transformation, innovation, and growth in key priority and productive sectors based on the State's comparative advantage, competitive advantage, technological innovation, industrial linkages, and regional development considerations.

We can only achieve the aforementioned lofty goals with the collaboration of partners and stakeholders, hence the Godwin Obaseki led administration will continue to engage and listen to partners both in the private and public space. We also realize that creating an enabling business environment will attract both domestic and foreign investors to the state. Hence we are strengthening our Service Level Agreement (SLA) through the ongoing civil service reforms.

Edo State is open for business.

Kelvin Uwaibi

Head, ESIPO

# OBASEKI

## - DRIVING INDUSTRIALISATION IN EDO STATE

**T**he drive by the Edo State government to industrialise the state is a testament to the vision to see beyond the present and build for the future

pace for future growth and massive industrialisation. While the state's industrialisation is yet to boom, the governor is already nurturing and training the skilled manpower required for the later hay days.



Despite what seem an unending political hullabaloo to outlanders in Edo State, an indubitable facet that has kept the Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki endeared to the people, is how visionary leadership acumen, especially his ability to see, plan and build beyond the present.

This is in addition to his transformational and developmental achievements in the state, which have continued to earn him accolades and recognitions.

Unperturbed by the distractions, the governor in his first term in office, has not only repositioned Edo State economy to be viable and globally competitive, but has been able to set a

This explains why the governor is leveraging on technical education to prepare Edo indigenes for the industrial revolution and technological switch-over that his administration is strategically repositioning the state for. Assiduously, the State Government has wittingly invigorated technical and vocational education with the revamp of the Government Science and Technical College (GSTC), formerly Benin Technical College.

The project, funded by World Bank, which is as a leading model hub for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Edo State, officially opened its improved facility to students in the 2019/2020 academic session. Several other models are currently still being



*Renovated, Government Science & Technical College, Benin.*

developed for the state's TVET programme and will be replicated in other sectors. Already, the new look of the college has caused Edo residents to take interest in the school, causing student enrolment to spike.

Public sector led investment drive in Nigerian economic space is often fraught with uncertainties due to both human capital elements and quality of leadership.

These two key factors are, however, primed in Edo state as the current leadership drives up its industrialisation programme.

In a case where the focus is to ramp up manufacturing, it is only logical to groom the man-

power, attract investors, and create the enabling environment for everyone to work harmoniously with the right policy framework.

In Edo State, Governor Godwin Obaseki, a consummate investment banker by profession, has his eyes on the ball. With a daunting vision to recast the state as an industrial hub in Nigeria, he is pulling every string available to attract investors, build local capacity and create wealth for the state and its people.

Obaseki's vision for driving industrial growth and development revolves around the belief that local capacity development is essential. This conviction informed his prioritisation of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET),



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which according to him is the bedrock of the vision to transform Edo into an industrial hub.

To achieve this, the state government has embarked on the construction of workshops, classrooms, laboratories, resource centers and purchase of top-of-the-range equipment for the Government Science and Technical College (GSTC), in Benin City, formerly known as Benin Technical College.

The reconstruction work will equip the college with requisite equipment for world-class technical and vocational education and training. The redesigning of the college is aimed at developing local capacity for the companies that are setting up in the state.

As part of the state's industrialisation drive, the rehabilitation of the college will provide a facility for model technical education to produce critical technical manpower for industries making inroads into the state, in the wake of a spike in investments by manufacturing companies, among others.

As part of the reconstruction work, nine existing buildings will be refurbished, while four classroom blocks, two workshops, a specialist training center as well as general site for works and services, will be constructed.

The college will be fitted with equipment that would enable students obtain skills and knowledge in various aspects of vocational education to enable them act as drivers of the industrialisation policy in the state in line with global trends.

The equipment will include: Auto-Electrical Works; Building Construction/Bricklaying, Block-laying and Concreting Works; Electrical Installation; Mechanical Engineering Craft Practice; Motor Vehicle Mechanic Works; Radio, Television & Electronics Works; Refrigeration & Air-conditioning Works; Vehicle Body Building & Repair/ Auto-mobile Maintenance and a Laboratory Equipment for Technical Drawing Department.

The construction and fitting of a knowledge resource center will serve the needs of the students

and teachers at the college. For Governor Obaseki, the need to develop a robust, well-modelled, well organised, adequately monitored and quality technical and vocational education and training with appropriate national and international certifications will go a long way in building a solid foundation that will drive industrial growth in the state.

The Edo Automotive Industry Investment Forum is part of efforts by the Godwin Obaseki-led administration to link the vast economic opportunities in the global auto industry with the state's economic diversification strategy, in addition to the \$500 million auto assembly plant deal between Edo state government and Chinese investors.

In attendance at the maiden forum were 36 chief executive officers of leading global auto brands and component suppliers. These include those of BMW, NISSAN, Toyota, Volkswagen, Ford, Bosch, Jaguar, and Deloitte, a consulting company, and Uber.

Others were representatives of the global auto makers, including Graffiti SA, Nissan, Toyota, Deloitte, Gauteng Infrastructure Financing Agency (GIFA), Automotive Industry Development Center, DataDot Technology, Standard Bank of South Africa, International Finance Corporation and Afropulse Group.

The high-profile meeting between the Edo State government and chief executives of German, Japanese, American, British and other European car manufacturers, was premised on the emerging investor-friendly climate in the state and how the companies can leverage on the Benin Auto Park's proximity to the Benin Industrial Park.

The one-day event unveiled the state government's agenda for the auto sector and the opportunities for investors. The prospective investors had the opportunity to visit the auto trading site on Sapele road and the future trading site at the Industrial Park also on Sapele Road.

The Forum also had a session on the state government's blueprint for the automotive sector which includes job creation for Edo people, the

local sourcing of car components amid an environment of high exchange rate regime and volatility, which makes local sourcing of components cost-effective.

Speaking at the Edo Automotive Industry Investment Forum, Chairman and Managing Director of Volkswagen South Africa, Mr. Thomas Scheafer, said “We have the mandate of our parent companies to be here. What we are trying to do in Nigeria is to reach out in a brotherly fashion and say to you, ‘come on, let’s get this done.’ For years, we have been discussing with the government. But now we are committed to finding out ways on how to get Nigeria to where it should be and play its role on the continent.”

He said for them, “Edo State will be the nucleus for us as Nigeria has a large automotive industry that is worth exploring. Nigeria is good for at least two million cars a year. That will multiply the jobs on the continent. So where does it start?”

Speaking on Governor Obaseki’s commitment to driving the state’s diversification as a major pull, he said, “We invested in Rwanda, one of the smallest countries on the continent, because they have great policies and because they wanted to create employment. In Rwanda, we put our money where our mouth is. We are ready to invest in Nigeria and today, we are happy with what we have seen in Edo State and the commitment of the governor.”

Director, Sales/Operations, Nissan South Africa, Jim Dando, said that the automotive industry was excited about the wave of diversification in Nigeria, particularly in the automotive sector, noting that it was great news that Edo state government was taking the lead.

According to him, “We have been discussing the industrialisation of Nigeria for some time now. With the previous government, we were able to create an industrial and automotive policy. What we need to do now is to put the automotive policy in place and drive it with states like Edo.”

For Dr. Jelani Aliyu, the Director General of the National Automotive Design and Development Council, the Benin Auto Park has at least two sce-

narios for growth, “with this support by the state government, I see the state becoming a hotbed for automobile sales. The first instance will see the state grow from supplying used cars to brand new cars. Also, we see the influx of automobile component makers, who are also here.”

Governor Obaseki told investors at the forum that the state has a thriving automotive market that services the Niger Delta market, parts of the North and even South Western Nigeria, as “Benin City boasts of a stock of not less than half a million cars. We want the companies to work within and even go beyond what the national automotive council provides.

According to Dr. Jelani Aliyu, across the globe, the automotive industry plays both strategic and catalytic role in economic development by contributing to the Gross Domestic Products (GDP).

For example, in South Africa, the auto industry alone contributes 7 percent of GDP as it is considered as critical component of the economy where it generates 350,000 jobs which makes it the second largest employer of labour. The industry also boasts of a market of 600,000 new cars with zero importation with 12 percent of exports.

In Egypt, it employs directly and indirectly, 600,000 people and has attracted an investment of over \$5 billion. It is the second source of foreign exchange after the Suez Canal.

The auto industry plays extensive role in driving the growth and development of Small, Medium and Micro-Enterprises (MSMEs) with respect to automotive parts, components and services and the attendant job creation. The Benin Auto Park will contribute to the plan by the Governor Obaseki-led administration to support the growth of over 20,000 micro, small and medium enterprises in addition to the creation of over 50,000 associated jobs in the next four years.

During a visit to auto dealers along Benin-Sapele Road, as part of the Edo Automotive Industry Investment Forum, a dealer with Idris and Sons Motors, told the delegation that the corridor hosts at least 100 dealers, with thousands of vehicles in their inventory.



The drive by the Edo State government to industrialise the state is a testament to the vision to see beyond the present and build for the future

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## Edo Secures \$200 million Textile Investment at the Benin Enterprise and Industrial Park

In furtherance to the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) concerted efforts to revive Nigeria's ailing Cotton, Textile and Garment (CTG) sub-sector, Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki has secured a \$200m investment for a cotton-weaving and spinning industry at the Benin Enterprise and Industrial Park.

Making this known during the maiden convocation ceremony of the Edo University Iyamho, Governor Obaseki said the CBN has been instrumental to the economic growth being recorded in the state, especially in the areas of industrialisation and agriculture.

Obaseki said the initiative was in line with the CBN's plans to revamp the textile industry in the country with a view to reducing importation of textile.

Noting that the state government

was promoting investment and real growth in the agricultural sector so as to get people out of poverty, he said the CBN's N5bn Commercial Agriculture Credit scheme in the state has led to employment of about 5,000 people and cultivation of 5,000 hectares.

He, however, advised that the CBN's monetary policies be followed up with robust fiscal policies, especially infrastructural development to ease the movement of locally produced goods and services.

He commended the CBN for having a specialized window to support the entertainment and tourism industry, adding that Edo state is solidly behind the apex bank's policies.

The CBN governor, Mr. Godwin Emefiele said that the apex bank's unconventional monetary policies have yielded positive results, helping to sta-

bilize the Nigerian economy.

According to Emefiele, "the favourable outcomes and strengthening outlook of the Nigerian economy is traceable to the timeous adoption of unconventional monetary policy tools. The CBN has been able to reduce inflation, build our forex reserves and maintain forex market stability and foster real growth.

"Nonetheless, challenges still remain. The pace of population growth at about 2.6 per cent still outstrips real growth rate while inflation is outside our tolerance band.

"Unemployment rate and incidence of poverty remain at unacceptable levels. Our economy still faces headwinds from expected declines in global growth and its resulting impact on oil prices and capital flows to emerging market countries."

## Edo govt Earmarks 3bn For Enterprise Park & Production Center.

The Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki has said his administration will commit N3bn to the Benin Enterprise and Industrial Park, the Benin River Port, Edo Production Centers and other initiatives to enhance production and other industrial activities in the state by 2020.

This according to the Governor is part of efforts

to spur industrialisation, which has the potential to unlock economic growth. According to Obaseki, "With Edo State replete with evidence of efforts at enhancing social welfare of our people, improving governance, and boosting economic development, we are committed to actualising the aspirations of our people to live in a just, fair, productive and progressive state.

“To deepen industrialisation, we will commit N3bn to the Benin Enterprise and Industrial Park, the Benin River Port, Edo Production Centers and other initiatives to enhance production and other economic activities in the state.

He continued, “While we are on course on our legacy projects, such as the Benin River Port and the Benin Enterprise and Industrial Park, we have successfully piloted the Benin Production Centre in the Sapele Road Axis of Benin City, as part of multi-pronged strategy to drive industrialisation in the state.

“For the Benin Enterprise and Industrial Park, we are already carrying out the Environment and Social Impact Assessment for the project, as we have sealed a deal with a world leading textile company to open shop at the facility as one of the anchor tenants.

“We are confident that the money would further spur

industrialisation, which has the potential to unlock economic growth.”

The Benin Production Centre hosts hundreds of artisans and Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) operators, who are provided with a serene work environment and access to shared infrastructure, 24-hour electricity, security, water supply, internet, access to low-cost loans.

The artisans and SMEs are involved in polythene production, furniture making, shoe making and leather works, toothpick and cotton wool production, welding (iron and brass) and fabrication, ice block production, cosmetic production, hair extensions production, garments production, waste recycling etc.

Two more of the facility, the government has assured, will be established in Edo Central and Edo North senatorial districts of the state.

## Enhancing Investment for Industrialisation in Edo State

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To achieve this, the state government has embarked on the construction of workshops, classrooms, laboratories, resource centres and purchase of top-of-the-range equipment for the Government Science and Technical College (GSTC), in Benin City, formerly known as Benin Technical College.

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Imagine a time when Edo State would have attained a degree of large-scale production and manufacturing, summed in advanced technical enterprises and other viable economic activities without a relatively skilled manpower with the technical know-how to sail the ship. The worrying impact is the importation of skilled labour from various parts of the world to drive the course, which ordinarily indigenes should have spearheaded. In exact terms, the yearn for job creation and local content development of the Godwin Obaseki-led administration would have been defeated.

***This explains why the governor is leveraging on technical education to prepare Edo indigenes for the industrial revolution and technological switch-over that his administration is strategically repositioning the state for.***

As-siduously, the State Government has wittingly invigorated technical and vocational education with the revamp of the Government Science and Technical College (GSTC), formerly Benin Technical College.

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The GSTC will serve as a centre for technical skill training for Edo youths ahead of the Obaseki-led administration's industrial revolution boom. Since 2017 till the date the facility has continuously witnessed massive rehabilitation, with projects still on-going at the college. The school boasts of world-class and up-to-date laboratory and workshop equipment. Expectedly, the college has commenced the production of chairs for other schools in the state. It will produce part of the N2b worth of

chairs to be used in primary schools across Edo State.

Applaudably, key infrastructure interventions for the state-of-the-art institution include a dedicated 33kv line from the Benin North electrical sub-station which draws power from the NIPP Ihonybor/Azura Power complex and a 45mbps fibre optic cable serving the college. Its facility is also networked with a sitewide fibre optic system, backup power from generators, off-grid renewable energy (solar power), rainwater harvesting and an integrated sitewide potable water system. Here, unlike other institutions of learning across the country, electricity is never a cause to ponder. One would begin to wonder the expectations of the Governor Obaseki-led administration of the college's graduates if not to be equipped with skills and expertise to compete favorably with other industrialised nations.

Interestingly, the state government has concluded plans to establish a commercial production hub in the GSTC. The hub will serve as a location for design and production of machines so as to create opportunities for students to work with those in the industry and translate what they learn to the real world.

Also, the state government has finalised talks with foreign partners for exchange programmes, which will make provision for experts to train teachers on technical subjects. The government also employed over 104 new staff to strengthen the college's staff strength for the new session.

Obaseki, during a tour to the school's facility recently, said: "We need more teachers that can teach technical subjects and we need to

train them. We are considering different options as

we are talking to foreign partners to provide technical support and assistance on how to bring people who have done this before to accelerate the training of our teachers.”

Specifically, the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) hailed the Governor Godwin Obaseki-led administration on the wholistic revamp of the GSTC built over 40 years ago by the Canadian Government, noting that the new learning environment has set a new standard for technical education in the country.

The Deputy Director, NBTE, Malam Samaila Tanko, when he led an NBTE Accreditation Team to GSTC, in Benin City, for resource inspection/assessment of the structures, curricula, and equipment urged other state governments to borrow a leaf from the transformational strides of the Obaseki-led administration.

Having completely changed the face and fortunes of the former Benin Technical College, the Governor Godwin Obaseki-led government also instituted the Edo Innovation Hub, a cluster for technology innovators and inventors to strengthen the state’s nascent technology innovation scene. The hub was commissioned by the Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo and hosts the South-South Innovation Hub, a regional cluster for technology entrepreneurs in the Niger Delta.

Tagged Edo Innovates, it provides a range of beginner, intermediate and advanced training in business and technology innovation, providing youths the opportunity to learn a wide array of employability and

entrepreneurial skills. Specifically, some of the offerings at the hub include digital skills, business support services, start-up incubation and business acceleration, mentorship, co-working spaces, and entrepreneurship training.

Asides the South-south Innovation Hub, the facility has two halls, five training rooms, six fully furnished co-working spaces, conference rooms, outdoor workspaces, offices, four rooms with a total of 100 computers, among others.

More than 10,000 youths have been trained at the facility since inception, with not less than a quarter of them being females. Some of the organisations with presence at the hub include Microsoft, Tech4Dev, LinkedIn, Curators University, Hotels.NG, Siemen’s Impact Hub, Makers Academy, Pan Atlantic University’s Enterprise Development Center, among others.

The Hub has recently proven to be a resource center for the state’s government plans to build an internationally competitive locally trained labour force in partnership with reputable organisations working to mitigate the menace of human trafficking and illegal migration.

This has attracted investment from the World Bank-assisted State Employment and Expenditure for Results project (SEEFOR) Project, United Kingdom (UK) the Market Development in the Niger Delta (MADE), a number of Chinese companies, among others, at the hub.

Amidst others, locally and internationally, who have continued to commend the governor, Edos in Diaspora applauded Obaseki for his relentless

effort to spur industrialisation in the state.

Speaking with journalists in Benin City, an indigene of Edo State and Staff Sergeant with the Toronto Police in Canada, Mr. Bassey Osagie, said the Governor Godwin Obaseki-led administration has shown commitment to drive sustainable development in the state.

He said he was impressed with the initiatives of the governor in creating wealth and providing opportunities for youths to learn skills to improve their livelihoods, noting, “What impresses me about the governor is when I hear that he opened the GSTC, formerly Benin Technical College. It impresses me when I hear that there is a factory opening up in Benin. I am impressed when I hear businesses are opening in Benin. When people are getting jobs and I hear that Edo State creates 1000 or 2000 jobs.”

He said for Nigeria to move forward, there is need for governments across all levels to use public funds to improve livelihood and create avenues to generate wealth, which will discourage people from depending on handouts from the government.

Such initiatives would discourage people from being idle, drive productivity and assist more young people to get jobs and develop the state. I watch him speak and I think we need an intellectual like that to continue to lead our state. We need somebody who is visionary and put Edo project above everything else and exposes whoever that is trying to stop the state from progressing, while working on plans to improve the wellbeing of the people.



# Edo to seal power supply deal with Niger Delta Power Company

**E**do State Government is set to seal a partnership deal with the Niger Delta Power Holding Company, NDPHC, on a bulk power supply to boost industrial activities in the state.

The Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, disclosed this when he received the management team of the NDPHC who paid him a business visit recently in Benin City.

Obaseki said he was optimistic that about 2,000Mega Watts of power could be generated from the power plants in the state in the next few years.

He explained that what was of immense concern to him was the utilisation of the power that would be generated from the power plants in the state, and added that his administration intends to make the Sapele road axis an industrial site and an electricity generating corridor.

“Now that we have found electricity, what are we going to do with it, is there no opportunity for us to think of

working with you directly?”

“How we can bring in people who will buy bulk power and distribute it close to our people who will use it for production purpose.

Earlier, the Managing Director/ CEO of NDPHC, Mr. Chinedu Ugbo said Edo was a major stakeholder in power generation.

He disclosed that governor Obaseki is on the new board to be inaugurated by the Company soon, adding that the visit was to strengthen areas of collaboration.

He said that the company had planned to seek the state approval for the bulk power supply arrangement, and expressed delight at the governor’s support which has opened the way for more opportunities.

“Edo is host to one of the big plants which are located along the Benin by-pass,” Ugbo said and commended the host community for their cooperation in ensuring a peaceful business.



# China to Support Edo State Industrialisation Programme



**T**he Governor of Edo State, Mr Godwin Obaseki, has expressed his commitment to transforming the State into a hub of industrial activities. The governor's commitment has also received a boost from the Chinese government, with the rollout of the implementation of the Chinese Government's Belt and Road Initiative in Nigeria.

The Chinese officials disclosed this at the Forum on the Belt and Road Initiative and Production Capacity Cooperation between China and Nigeria.

The event was attended by top members of the Chinese Government's delegation to Nigeria as well as top functionaries from the Edo State Government, among others.

The Edo State Governor was a Special Guest at the Chinese Consulate in Nigeria to mark the celebration and also streamline plans in the realisation of the Asian country's Belt and Road Initiative in Nigeria.

A consulate official commended the governor and the Chinese ambassador to Nigeria, Zhou Pingjian, for gracing the event, noting that the initiative is being implemented after President Muhammadu Buhari met with Chinese President, Xi Jinping in Beijing, to agree on stronger ties between both countries.

The Summit also launches eight major initiatives including industrial promotion, infrastructure connectivity, trade facilitation, green development, capacity building, health-care, people-to-people exchange and peace and security.

# Obaseki Revs up Edo Industrialisation Drive with New Policy



**E**fforts to deepen the ongoing industrialisation drive of the Governor Godwin Obaseki-led administration received as development experts met to review the Edo State Industrial Development Policy.

Welcoming stakeholders to the state's 'Industrial Policy Validation Workshop' Obaseki noted that since he assumed duty, his focus has been on driving holistic development through policies that would engender sustainable economic growth.

He told the workshop participants that his administration is committed to developing a modern state where citizens will be empowered through initiatives that will prioritise employment creation, skills acquisition and entrepreneurship.

Obaseki, who was represented by his Special Adviser on Economic and Development planning, Mr. Joseph Eboigbe, maintained that the ongoing reforms in all sectors of the state were designed to eliminate barriers in the ease of doing business.

"Our administration will continue to collaborate with relevant stakeholders such as the federal government and members of the organised private sector to achieve our set goals, like the reduction of unemployment to below 15 per cent and creating the enabling environ-

ment for businesses to thrive in the state."

He assured that his administration is developing a modern state where citizens will be empowered to become employers of labour, adding that the state is well on her way to becoming a reference point in creating young entrepreneurs.

Dr. Omo Aregbeyen, one of the experts working on the Edo State Industrial Development Policy, described the industrial sector as a key driver for increasing growth rates, generation of employment opportunities and sustainable economic growth and development.

He said the workshop was put together to validate the proposed industrial framework for the state, and explained that the vision of the governor Obaseki-led government "is to transform Edo State from a producer of primary goods into a producer of processed value-added goods for both the domestic and export market."

The Commissioner for Wealth Creation, Employment and Cooperatives, Emmanuel Usoh, commended participants for their support for the government and urged them to produce a framework that will guide the state in her journey to becoming one of the richest states in the country.

# Edo State governor meets Japanese ambassador on development partnership.

**T**he Edo State governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki has said that the state and the government of Japan are putting finishing touches to a partnership that will usher investment in infrastructure and human capital development, particularly vocational education, in the state.

The governor said this after a meeting with the Japanese Ambassador to Nigeria, Yutaka Kikuta, in Edo House, Abuja, Nigeria's capital.

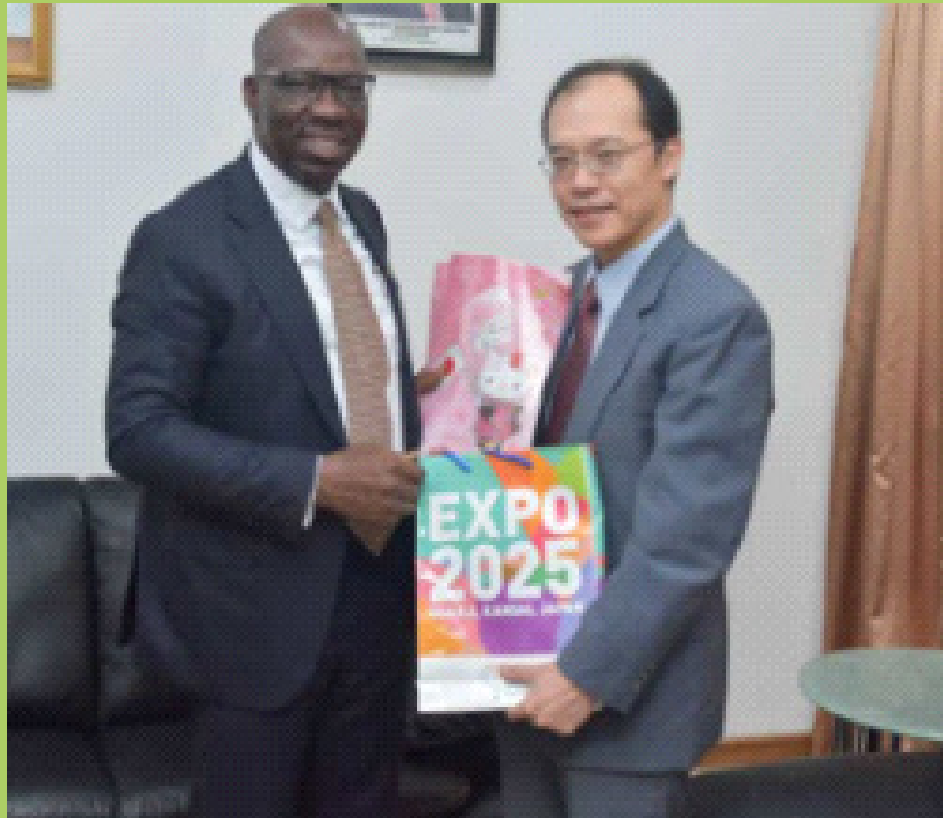
He said the state government was pursuing a robust industrialisation plan to reposition the state as the leading investment destination in Nigeria, and as such needs all the support it can get from development agencies and governments of other countries.

He added that Edo State is working assiduously to revamp vocational education to serve as the fulcrum of the industrialisation mandate in the state and sought the support of the Japanese government in human capital development.

Explaining that the state government is rehabilitating the Benin Technical College, which is now known as Government Science and Technical College (GSTC), to reflect the realities of a modern, 21st-century technical school, he called on the Japanese government to join in the effort to bequeath in-demand skills to youths in the state.

According to him, the state government has made good her promise to revamp technical education in the state, but needs the input of technical partners, who will strengthen the teaching and training curriculum at the school.

The governor also said that the state is pursuing an aggressive industrialisation plan that includes the development of over 900-hectare Industrial Park, Benin River Port, Modular Refinery, among others, to boost industrial



activity in the state.

Ambassador Kikuta said that partnership will boost trade ties between the Japanese government and the state, promote knowledge transfer, economic diversification and improved competitiveness.

Recall that the state government early last year sought partnership with the Japanese government on solid minerals exploration and agriculture, especially rice farming.

“Japan has a lot of experience in growing rice and since we have a large rice belt in the state, we have looked at how to cooperate with them,” the governor had said.

# Edo Modular Refinery Project to Drive Industrial Revolution



**E**do Government says the ongoing Modular Refinery project at Ologbo in Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area of the state, will on completion, drive the state's industrial revolution quest.

According to Governor Obaseki, the Edo Modular and Refinery Company Ltd. and AIPCC Energy, were on the verge of completing the 5,500bpd Edo Modular Refinery, now at 70 per cent completion stage.

“This is a key legacy project of this administration to recalibrate the state's industrial base, birthed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

“The project, sited at Ologbo in Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area, would produce from its feedstock 50 per cent of diesel (500,000 litres), 25 per cent of naphtha (300,000 litres) and 20 per cent of fuel oil (200,000) litres.

“The crude is to be sourced from the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company's (NPDC) facility – oil mining lease (OML) 111, near Benin City.

“The Chinese consortium handling the construction of the modular refinery is made up of Peiyang Chemical Equipment Company of China (PCC), Sinopec International Petroleum Service Corporation (SIPS) and African Infrastructure Partners (AIP),” he said.

The modular refinery project is among the growing list of ongoing legacy projects through MoU with local and international private investors, which included the 55MW CCTEC Ossiomo Power Plant, which had been completed and ready for use.

“The Benin Enterprise and Industrial Park, which development is ongoing and the Benin River Port, for which preliminary works are ongoing,” he said.

The governor said he is committed to resetting the economy of the state for prosperity and industrial growth, the local content component of the refinery project ensures that Edo citizens are trained in welding, refinery operation and fabrication works to enable them participate in the construction of the refinery as well as its operation, post-commissioning.

“The refinery is at 70 per cent completion and we are very sure that it will soon be ready for commissioning,” he said.

He added that the actualisation of the project was premised on the administration’s smart thinking and financial savviness from which he mobilised funds and resources to initiate and execute the project.

“Recall that the Edo State EXCO approved the release of N700 million as redeemable preference shares (investment) in the Edo Refinery and Petrochemical Company Ltd.

“The venture is expected to create legitimate employment opportunities, thereby reducing poverty, provide job opportunities for teeming youths in the communi-

ties.

“To facilitate the establishment of a fabrication yard as proposed by the promoters and create basis for expertise, professionalism and further training in the oil and gas industry. “The take-off of the Edo Refinery and Petrochemicals Company benefits from a series of groundwork by the Obaseki-led administration that led to the setting up of Edo Investment Scheme Ltd.

“A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to hold N2 billion investment funds in which the Ministry of Finance Incorporation (MOFI) and the Edo State Oil and Gas Producing Areas Development Commission (EDSOGPADEC) are to hold shares of 20 percent and 80 per cent respectively,” he said.

The project would facilitate the state’s investment in various initiatives across the oil and gas sector, petroleum exploration, drilling and filling stations, sales and supply of gas, agro-allied products, petroleum and petrochemical products and other related businesses.

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The advertisement features a side view of a dark grey and orange Reebok sneaker with a glowing orange sole. To the right of the shoe, the text 'heat-to-fit' is written in a large, white, lowercase font. Below this, 'U-FORM+ TECHNOLOGY' is written in a smaller, white, uppercase font. Three circular icons are arranged horizontally: the first shows a hair dryer with the word 'HEAT' below it; the second shows a foot being shaped by a mold with the word 'FORM' below it; the third shows a hand holding a shoe with the word 'FIT' below it. The Reebok logo and 'REAL FLEX' are in the top left, and '© Reebok' is in the bottom left.

# Edo industrialisation policy sets state on growth path



**T**he Governor of Edo State, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, has said that the Edo Industrial Development Policy has put the state on an economic growth path that is absorbing local manpower.

He explained that the state has been working on the comprehensive industrialisation policy with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), which he said would be unveiled soon. Obaseki who is pushing hard on the various stages of projects designed to transform the state into an industrial hub, noted that “the steps that have been taken by our administration are in line with the state’s well-articulated Industrial Development Policy that will support increasing growth rates, generation of sufficient employment opportunities and sustainable economic growth and development.”

Experience from successful national and local economies indicates that a “coherent Industrialisation Policy is a prerequisite for the advancement of industrial development in any territory.” Specifically, the Benin Industrial Park is conceived to serve as a base for manufacturing and processing companies that will add a great deal of value to products that are sourced from the state and her neighbours, for onward exportation through the Benin River Port in Gelegele. The Modular Refinery in Benin has received a N700 million as initial investment and sources familiar with the progress of the Edo-China investment collaboration, said the projects hold a lot of promise for the state.

According to Obaseki, “the company will be involved in the production of petroleum and petrochemical products and other related businesses. “The venture will enhance the local refining capacity, thereby increasing the volume of naphtha, kerosene, diesel and residual fuel oil products available in Edo State.” He added that the venture “will create legitimate employment opportunities thereby reducing poverty and providing job opportunities for teeming youth in the communities and facilitate the establishment of a fabrication yard as proposed by the promoters, thereby creating basis for expertise, professionalism and further training in oil and gas industry.”

The governor assured that the set of strategies adopted in the industrialisation plan will alter the structure and distribution of industrial activity to promote economic growth and development. The Edo Fertiliser and Chemical plant commissioned by the governor last year has provided employment opportunities for over 500 people and has created allied businesses in Auchi where it is located, aside providing access to fertiliser. The governor added that the technical manpower required to drive these industries are being groomed at the Benin Science and Technical College, which is being revamped by the state government, to ensure that skilled manpower will be sourced locally.

# Edo drives industrialization with Production Centre initiative

The ever pressing need to break the ground in fast-tracking industrialisation and economic diversification has led many state governments to tinker with diverse industrial models, with a number of them recording negligible successes.

This trial and error approach has led to the creation of industrial clusters or zones that dot the country, all of which, analysts say, are bogged with numerous challenges ranging from ill-thought out policy measures, decaying infrastructure, little or no incentives for investment or in-fighting among initiators.

Policy flip flops and other man-made errors have made it difficult for these clusters to provide conducive environment for innovation and production to foster the growth of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). This is cast against the backdrop of what obtains in other climes, where deliberate government policy has sparked industries in India, the United States and Europe.

In Edo State, Governor Godwin Obaseki has pooled resources to set up the Edo Production Center, an industrial cluster for over 200 SMEs in Sapele Road axis of Benin City, fitted with 24 hours electricity, as an incentive to boost productivity.

The governor is focused on repositioning the state as an industrial hub in Nigeria by creating the environment to stimulate the smooth operation of manufacturers, expand the space for youths to be engaged in productive activity and promote inclusive development. Over 200 MSMEs Berth the Production Center is an initiative of Governor Obaseki, to provide a multipurpose production facility with conducive environment for manufacturers to work in clusters. The multi purpose production cluster will serve as hub for Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) in the state.

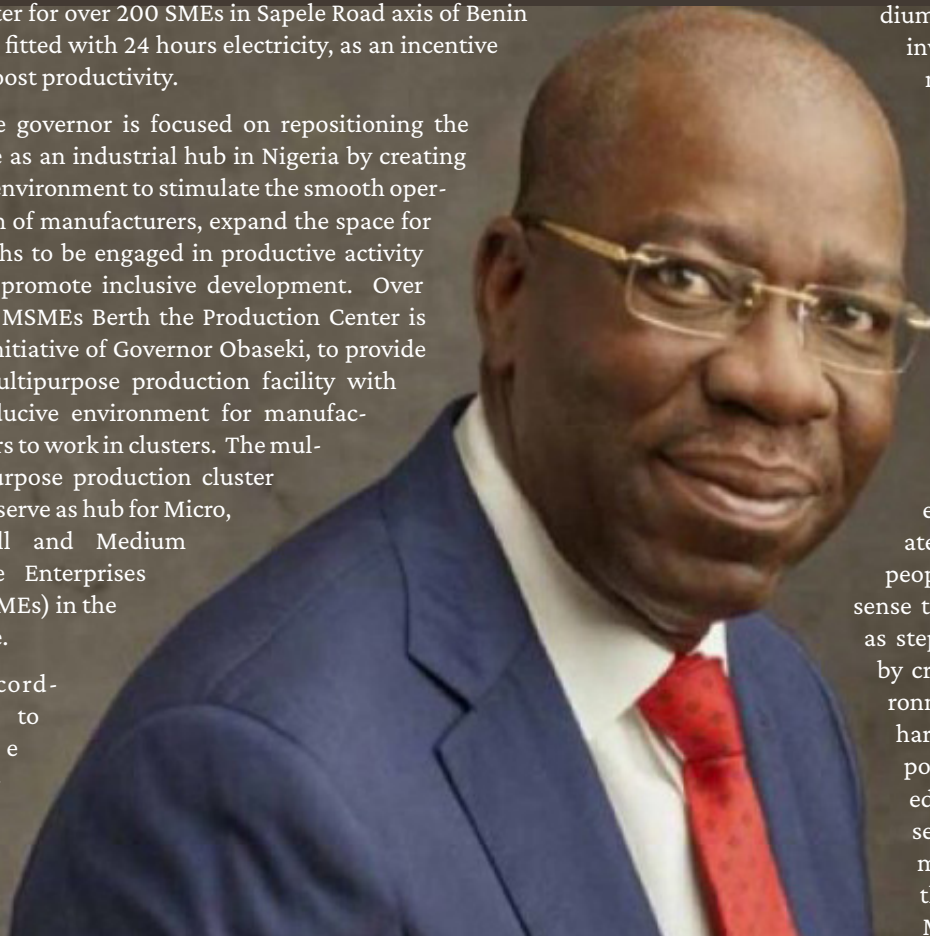
According to the Senior

Special Assistant (SSA) to the Governor on Jobs Creation and Skills Development, Mrs. Ukinebo Dare, at the one-stop-shop and production Centre to be located across the three Senatorial Districts of the state, MSMEs will enjoy economies of scale and low cost of production. Some of the major attractions include constant electricity, good road network, security, solar powered street light and other business support services so as to boost capacity to produce at scale, create more jobs and deepen industrialisation.

The cluster is also expected to aggregate different manufacturers with sections for welders, metal and fabrication, polythene cut, printers, woodwork, recyclers, shoemakers, among others. The site of the Production Centre in Edo South Senatorial District is located along the Sapele Road-axis of Benin, in a formerly abandoned government warehouse refurbished by the Obaseki-led administration. The facility of four blocks has been described as the future of production, to accommodate local manufacturers.

When the Centre opens for business, it will host over 200 Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) involved in fabrication, furniture making, printing and polythene production and a number of other interested small business owners.

Mrs. Ukinebo Dare explained that through the Production Centre initiative, Governor Godwin Obaseki is focused on encouraging the growth of small-scale businesses to spur economic growth and create jobs and wealth for the people, as it only makes more sense to groom local manpower as step to attract big investors, by creating the enabling environment for everyone to work harmoniously with the right policy framework. Dare added that the initiative is being set-up by the state government with support from the Bank of Industry (BOI), MEND and Benson Idaho-



sa University.

Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Hon. Eodorodion Oye Erimona, noted that aside being a one-stop-shop for MSMEs to enjoy economics of scale and low cost of production, “the Centre will accommodate MSMEs clusters while the Benin Industrial park will host big industries. The electricity that will be at the hub will be drawn from the Ossiomo Power Purchase arrangement. Pollution in the environment will be minimal as the businesses will be MSMEs.” Another key factor in favour of the initiative is that it would provide conducive environment for the development of other business clusters which will serve as incubation centre for new businesses in the state. The Centre is also expected to bring many small businesses together that will cooperate with each other in an attempt to efficiently share resources such as electricity, information, materials, water, energy, infrastructure, and other resources, and help achieve sustainable development, with the intention of increasing economic gains and improving the quality of lives for Edo people.

The production cluster would feature facilities designed to drastically reduce cost usually incurred during production, increase income for small business owners, while at the same time reducing the price of goods and services in local economy, and growing foreign exchange earnings for the state and country. For Governor Obaseki, the Production center will enable his administration assists entrepreneurs in small scale production cut down on cost of production and grow their businesses with ease in accessing finance and funding from financial institutions. This is in fulfilment of his promise to ensure a conducive environment for businesses to thrive and improve the quality of lives of the people. This will also complement the Obaseki-led administration goal in driving industrialisation of the state and undeniably revolutionise the state’s economy.

A unique attraction at the Centre according to Obaseki is the provision of uninterrupted power supply to the facility, as the state government has made arrangement for provision of 24/7 electricity to assist owners of small-scale businesses eliminate initial setup cost on electricity. As entrepreneurs are set to commence operation at the Production Center, three 500KV transformers have been installed at the facility to demonstrate Governor Obaseki’s promise to provide 24-hour electricity at the center. According to the Head, Energizing Edo, Mr. Paul Okungbowa, “The 500KV transformers will be connected to the 33KV line in the area. The plan is to have at the onset 1.2MW of power, which we intend to expand to 4MW in the near future. We want to ensure that the heavy machines to be run at the facility have 24-hour electricity to work optimally. Essentially, there will be no downtime, if the occupiers wish.” In addition to provision of 24/7, the Centre is fitted with factory space, security and office space, the Production Centre will provide spaces for live-in desks for relevant government agencies to engage, support and provide services to the small businesses at the Centre.

The agencies to be hosted at the Centre according to the governor’s aide, are the Bank of Industry (BoI), Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Edo Internal Revenue Service (EIRS), among others. These supports will make owners of MEMEs more productive. A representative of fabricators and welders to be hosted at the Production Center in Benin, Rev. Lugard Ekhosuehi Michael, said the arrangements for working space and constant electricity supply will help them eliminate the major problem they are faced with. “The state government has provided space for us and promised 24 hours electricity supply as these are the problems we are faced with as welders and fabricators in the state,” Michael said. Edo’s Economy Transformation With the Production Centre in Benin about to be open for business, the state’s economy stands to gain immensely with complete turn-around in terms of quality of what will be produce at the Centre.

Mrs. Ukinebo Dare who heads Governor Obaseki’s jobs creation and skills development agency, EdoJobs, said, “As we are looking forward to the commissioning of this project, in the very near future, we will see a complete transformation in terms of the quality of what we produce, capacity to produce and the number of jobs created by this Production Centre.” According to the governor’s aide, the hub will boost his promise to create a minimum of 200,000 jobs before the end of his first four years in office, as his administration planned to create more jobs from industries through providing opportunities for industrialisation driven through private sector participation. Mrs. Dare said, the hub is also expected to affect the growth of local capacity and support the state government skills acquisition programmes which will create lasting impact and provide viable paths to prosperity for youths in the state.

With the Centre in place, skills acquisition will be delivered alongside entrepreneurship and business management, start-up acceleration, digital marketing and branding programmes. The Obaseki led-administration is also not relenting in formulating the necessary policies and programmes that would empower youths to fit into the emerging economy which his administration is creating.

For Obaseki, “We want to create several job incubation centres/hubs, where job seekers will be trained and employed by the entrepreneurs in the state. We have the potential to create all we want as we have the base materials, so we have to prepare our youths to fit into these new jobs we intend to create via training.” The direct and indirect jobs to be created at the hub will contribute significantly to Nigeria’s manufacturing sector. Access to Finance and Funding for MSMEs the production Centre initiative pursued by the Edo State Government is quite grand and offers a wide range of benefits to local investors who are being strategically organised as a cluster to improve access to funding and other financial instruments.

During a visit to the hub, the Governor of Central Bank Nigeria (CBN), Mr. Godwin Emefiele while lauding Governor Obaseki’s initiative in setting up the Production Hub,



said the Centre will enable financial institutions like the apex bank easily reach SMEs and assist them tackle the problem in accessing finance and other support. With the cluster, it becomes easy for the CBN and other financial institutions, to meet with entrepreneurs who are doing business at the hub. According to Emeziele the creation of the hub is a timely intervention by the Edo State Government as the CBN is making plans to deal with issues affecting financing for SMEs. According to him, the CBN in collaboration with the Bankers' Committee have set-up the National Micro Finance Bank to assist deposit money

will leverage on the BoI's expertise in industrialisation and production to attract funding for the MSMEs at the Production Centre. Small-scale businesses who will operate their businesses at the Benin cluster will now have easy access to funding, with the opportunity to take loan as a cluster. With the ease to access loan at about 9 per cent interest rate and provision of constant electricity, the Production Centre has provided solutions to challenges faced by SMEs, which according to Emeziele will enable owners of small-scale businesses to cut cost of production, even as they are better prepared to compete effectively and



banks and SMEs access fund easily. "We have set up over 20 centers for the National Micro Finance Bank (NMF) across the country and I am sure Edo State will have a share," the apex bank governor said.

SSA to Governor Obaseki on Jobs Creation and Skills Development, Mrs. Ukinebo Dare, explained that the state government is also collaborating with the Bank of Industry (BoI) for funding as the Obaseki-led administration

create employment for themselves and others, while supporting the government to also grow the economy.

# Obaseki's Industrialization Drive: *Edo sets for 4 additional production Centres*



In pursuance of Governor Godwin Obaseki's industrialization drive, the Edo State Government has cooperated with key stakeholders in the state's industrial sector for the expansion of the Edo Production Centre to four more locations across the state.

This move recorded success with the pilot Edo Production Centre located at Sapele Road axis of Benin City, which has led to increased agitation from business owners for expansion of the initiative to accommodate more businesses.

Three of the new production centers are to be sited in Benin, and one in Auchi.

The Managing Director, Edo State Skills Development Agency (EdoJobs), Mrs. Ukinbo Dare, speaking during a stakeholders meeting on the new projects, said three of the four Centers would focus on providing

a conducive co-creation space for furniture making, food processing, fashion and painting.

She noted that the session was organized to learn the peculiar challenges of the key players in the focus areas and develop a strategy to efficiently support them.

Head, Edo State Investment Promotion Office, Mr. Kelvin Uwaibi said the stakeholders meeting has availed them with details of the needs of the business operators, noting that appropriate measures to address such concerns would be incorporated into design of the new centres.

Participants at the session, Emobvo Courage and Osianwa Maria-Goretti, commended the initiative and asked the government to remove unnecessary bottle-necks in the process of locating their businesses at the centres so they can easily access spaces in the facilities.

## NDDMB signs US\$25 million deal on energy park, blending plant in Edo

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has signed two separate equity investment agreements with Duport Midstream Company for the establishment of an energy park in Egbokor, Edo State and Eraskon Nigeria Limited, for a lubricating oils blending plant in Gbarain, Bayelsa State, both worth about \$25 million.

The company said the board's investments would catalyse industrialisation, with the two partnerships expected to generate about 1,500 direct, indirect, and induced employment opportunities.

It noted that these benefits are in addition to several other spin-off economic activities that would be devel-

oped where the projects are located.

The planned energy park comprises a 2,500bpd modular refinery, 30MMscfd gas processing facility, which will include a CNG facility and 2MW power plant, the company said.

The lubricating oil blending plant, it noted, would be the first of such plants in Bayelsa state and would have the capacity to produce 45,000 liters per day as well as enhance the availability of engine oils, transmission fluids, grease and other products.

Executive Secretary, NCDMB, Mr. Simbi Wabote, signed the Shareholders Agreements and Share Subscription Agreements at Abuja while Dr. Akintoye Akindele, Managing Direc-

tor of Duport Midstream Company and Mr. Maxwell Oko, Managing Director of Erakson Nigeria Ltd equally signed for their firms respectively.

Wabote, explained that the investments were part of the approval granted recently by the board's governing council chaired by the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva.

He clarified that the investments were coming under the board's commercial ventures program and was in sync with the its vision to serve as a catalyst for the industrialisation of the Nigerian oil and gas industry and its linkage sectors.

He indicated that the Duport partnership was in furtherance of the board's strategy to enhance in-coun-

try value addition by supporting the establishment of processing facilities close to marginal or stranded hydrocarbon fields.

According to the ES, the recent drastic drop in the prices of oil had made it imperative to have refining capacities to reduce, if not eliminate cases of stranded oil cargoes without buyers.

Recalling the board had already partnered with the Waltersmith Group and Azikel Petroleum Company for the establishment of modular refineries in Imo and Bayelsa State respectively, he underscored the emerging investment opportunity in developing capability and capacity in-country to maintain the various kits in the modular refinery on a sustainable basis. "We do not want a situation where the modular refineries are folding up one after the other in a

chemicals and reagents, adding that the packaging section can also be used for generating additional incomes for the business and for creation of employment.

He said the board was excited at the prospects of the partnerships in jobs creation, value retention, petroleum products availability, utilisation of Nigeria's abundant gas resources and in the development of in-country capability.

Akindele conveyed the company's commitment to partner NCDMB in the development of the Energy Park and assured that the project would add value to the nation's natural resources and create wealth and social amenities for communities. He added that the energy park targets to create over 1000 jobs and impact 10,000 families and indicated that the modular refinery would produce a com-



few years due to lack of technical support or inability to secure critical parts" he said.

Wabote stated further that NCDMB has commenced discussion with some Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) on how to domicile the fabrication and assembly of modular refineries in-country. "Our strategy is to begin to claw back bits and pieces of the various components of the modular refinery until we fully domesticate the manufacturing of a large percentage of the kits in-country," he said.

Giving details of the partnership with Eraskon, the Executive Secretary pointed out that the blending facility had the capacity to be deployed for the production of other

bination of Naphtha, diesel, kerosine and HFO, otherwise known as residual fuel oil.

He pledged the company's commitment to exceed expectations and help increase government's revenue, reduce dependence on imported petroleum products

Oko noted that Eraskon was delighted to contribute to the industrial development of Bayelsa State and the Niger Delta, with the project set for a two-year completion date.

He said that the company would benefit from operating from the same industrial corridor with Shell Gas Gathering facility, Azikel Refinery and NCDMB projects at Polaku.

# Edo Industrial Park will Enhance Africa's Industrialisation

**G**overnor Godwin Obaseki has said that his administration's commitment to the development of an industrial park, a modular refinery and the Benin River Port in the state, would accelerate Africa's industrialisation drive.

Obaseki made the submission in commemoration of Africa Industrialisation Day, which is celebrated on November 20 every year by the United Nations and its partners.

According to the governor, "industrialisation holds the key to Africa's prosperity and with ongoing continent-wide conversation about Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), any part of the continent that wants to benefit from the agreement must strengthen her industrial base.

"When the Benin Industrial Park and the Benin River Port come on stream, more jobs will be created for Edo people and residents, while a robust product processing base will be established to add value to goods produced in the state.

Obaseki noted that the 2018 theme for the Africa Industrialisation Day, 'Promoting Regional Value Chains in Africa: A pathway for accelerating Africa's structural transformation, industrialisation and pharmaceutical production', highlights his administration's supports for policies and programmes, which envision sustainable development for the state.

He said parts of the plans to support industrialisation in

the state included sustaining the tempo in providing enabling environment that encourages local and foreign investors willing to site their industries in the state, and through that, "focusing on improving employability of youths through technical and vocational education and other skills development programme organised by EdoJobs.

"The transformation of Edo Geographical Information Service (EDOGIS) agency is aimed at ensuring that investors acquire land to support the state's industrial growth with ease, while we continue to support human capital development, research and development (R&D), technology and governance.

"For the United Nations, industrialisation, with strong linkages to domestic economies, will help African countries achieve high growth rates, diversify their economies and reduce their exposure to external shocks, which will substantially contribute to poverty eradication through employment and wealth creation."





## Ossiomo Power Plant begins power supply, lights up Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium.

**T**he 55MW CCETC-Ossiomo Independent Power Plant in Benin City has commenced power supply in the state with the lighting up of the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium, a feat that has now opened up the electricity market in Edo State to drive industrial growth and attract private investors.

The commencement of power supply from the plant in Ologbo, Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area has set the state on a path to becoming a hub for high-impact industries that require stable power to perform optimally.

The 55MW CCETC-Ossiomo, located in Ologbo, Ikpoba-Okha Local government area, has set the path for Edo State

to becoming a hub for high impact industries that require stable electricity to perform optimally. This is a major feat. The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) between the government and investors has effectively kicked off, setting off a ripple effect that will see the influx of power-intensive industries into Edo State.”

Aside the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium, the PPA covers the lighting up of the Edo State Secretariat on Sapele Road, government hospitals, street lights, industrial clusters, and other critical public assets. Private individuals, businesses and industries are also eligible to buy power from Ossiomo IPP.

With the development, power consumers in the state now



have alternative power sources, with two operating power distribution companies, who would compete and provide a conducive environment for business owners and other investors to make decisions based on quality of services rendered.

The Ossiomo IPP has the willing-buyer-willing-seller arrangement with government and other private sector actors,

who are willing to off-take electricity from the power companies, this means private individuals and groups can off-take electricity for their businesses and other concerns from the 55MW CCETC-Ossiomo plant project. The project is designed to encourage a vibrant private sector in the state.



# Nosak Group boosts Obaseki's industrialisation drive

**A**n indigenous business conglomerate, Nosak Group has contributed to the Governor Godwin Obaseki-led administration's industrialisation and job creation drive with its investment in agriculture, including the acquisition of 13,000 hectares for oil palm plantation.

The company has also ventured into ethanol production with the acquisition of 10,000 hectares for the cultivation of cassava in the state. Chairman of the Group, Toni Ogunbor said Nosak Group through its investment in agriculture fields has continued to deepen activities to migrate Edo State from a core civil service state to a manufacturing economy.

He noted that the group's primary focus is to contribute to making the state an industrial hub for oil palm plantation and production, adding that the group will continue to demonstrate commitment to complement the efforts of state government in creating jobs for the people through agriculture with a move from subsistence practice to commercial agriculture on large scale cultivation. Ogunbor said the Group operates oil palm plantation fields sitting on a total land area of over 1,300 hectares located in Ukhiri, off Benin/Abraka Express and an existing field of over 450 hectares of land in Obagie, which are both suburbs of the state capital.

Managing Director, Nosak Distilleries Limited, Osaro Omojadi explained that the Group has ventured into making huge investments in backward integration to expand the oil palm plantations with the acquisition of over 13,000 hectares of farmland for cultivation of new oil palm fields, which has created jobs for

about 100 contract staff who maintain the pre-nursery stage where over 400 seedlings have been planted. "The group has also acquired over 10,000 hectares of land with the support of the state government to cultivate cassava to be converted to raw ethanol for processing," he added

He noted that the cassava plantation would see the creation of over 200 jobs for the people of Edo State, adding, "Labour is the most vibrant factor of production, which combines with other factors to have a successful operation. We will latch upon the unemployed in Edo State to drive the plantation and the processing of cassava to ethanol as well as other derivatives from the tuber."

The Plantation Manager, Saturn Farms Limited, Victor Egharevba said the plantation fields, recorded an average yield of oil palm fresh fruit bunch (FFB) estimated at 105,882 per annum with over 30 employees in the administrative affairs and over 200 employees including permanent and contract staff managing the day to day running of the fields. Egharevba noted that outside the plantation, the group has a 5-tonnes per day milling plant that processes oil palm into crude palm olein employing about 30 personnel who man the operations of the mill. According to him, "The crude oil from the mill serves as raw materials to the vegetable refinery, Nosak Farm Produced located in Lagos, a 200 metric ton per day refinery that produces vegetable oil, fined bleached and deodorized olein (RBDO), stearin and palm fatty acid distillate with an average of 60,000 metric tonnes of refined vegetable oil per annum."



**Dr. Tony Ogunbor, Chairman, NOSAK Group.**



# The Benin Enterprise Park

The Benin Enterprise Park is being developed to address the biggest complaint that companies have about Nigeria, the lack of first class infrastructure and services to enable them to set up shop efficiently and seamlessly.

The opportunity for growth in Nigeria is widely acknowledged.

The United Nations estimates that between now and 2050, that 50% of the world's population growth of close to 2.5 billion people, will be concentrated in just 9 countries: India, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Tanzania, USA, Uganda and Indonesia. In other words, Nigeria is expected to be the second largest contributor to the world's population growth, forecast to grow from 190 million people today to around 410 million in thirty years time.

The maths tell you therefore that there will be 6.7 million more people a year living in Nigeria every year for the next 30 years. Whilst this, in many ways, is a scary thought, the opportunity to serve this fast growing population is undeniable.

To meet the needs of this huge and growing population, Nigeria needs to diversify its production base (away from its dependency on petrocarbon exports) and grow its domestic manufacturing and service sectors. In turn, this necessitates then development of an infrastructural environment that enables companies to set up their operations in Nigeria (or for those already established in Nigeria, to consider expansion opportunities) in a relatively seamless and efficient manner.

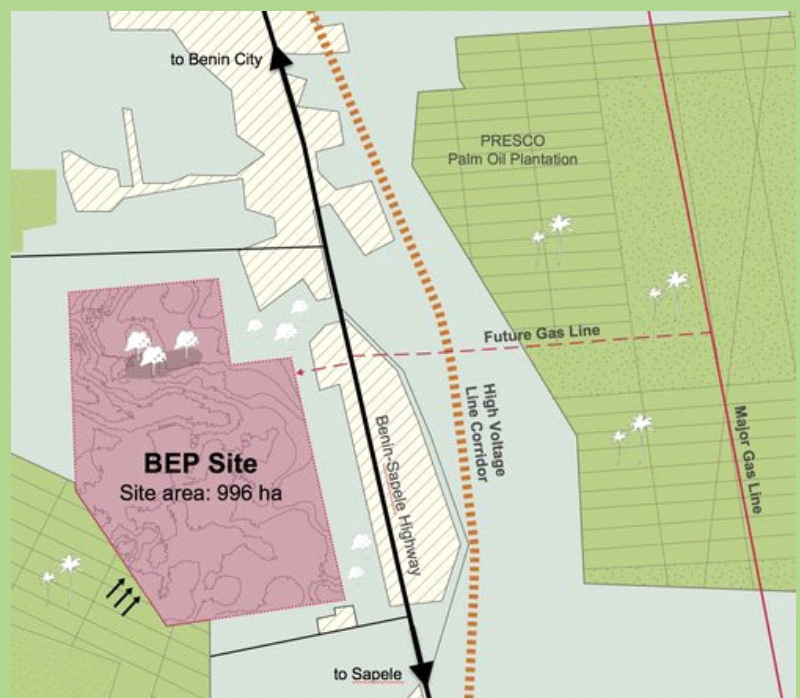
From this marriage of challenge and opportunity came the birth of the Benin Enterprise Park.

To facilitate the entry (or expansion) of enterprises in Nigeria, we had to find a location where an industrial park which could be built to house these companies and provide them with all the facilities that they need to set up their operations. This location had to be blessed with certain key attributes, for example: proximity to a national road network that connects the major trading centers of the country; easy, affordable and uninterrupted supply of gas and electricity so that companies can operate efficiently and predictably; and a calm and secure space that could provide stability and tranquility for the companies and their employees.

Ten years ago, Amaya Capital began the pioneering process of developing the Azura-Edo IPP, a 461MW gas-fired power station near Benin City which has been in full operations since May 2018. The project, which has been fully

supported by the Edo State Government from its beginning and in which the State continues to have a minority stake is considered one of the most successful infrastructure projects developed in Nigeria over the last decade. Driven by an exciting vision for the state led by the Edo State Governor, His Excellency Godwin Obaseki, Benin City is increasingly being seen as the place for enterprising companies to come and set up shop.

Hence the birth of the Benin Enterprise Park, a 997 hectare area of land that has already been demarcated by Edo State Government for the purposes of attracting and locating new businesses and enterprises.



The Benin Enterprise Park (“BEP”) comprises a site area of 997 hectares.

- It is located circa 20 km south of the city centre of Benin, the capital city of Edo State, Nigeria.
- The BEP is adjacent to the Benin-Sapele highway, allowing easy access to multiple demand centres.
- Tenants will also enjoy close proximity to major air and sea ports.
- The BEP is proximate to fertile land and abundant water supply.
- Investors and tenants in the BEP will benefit from state-of-the-art utilities.



□ Tenants in the BEP will have access to gas and power at costs far lower than anywhere else in the country.

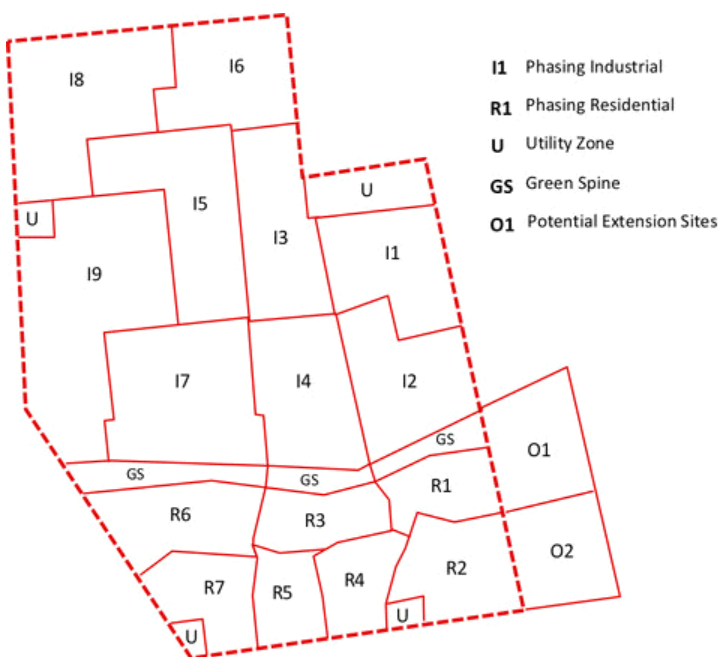
□ The BEP is a master-planned site designed by internationally acclaimed architects and urban planners.

□ The site will be developed in accordance with world-class environmental standards and development guidelines.

□ The site incorporates a mixed-used residential zone to serve tenants' short and long-term accommodation needs.

□ The State Government is a seed investor in the BEP; but management & control of the site resides in the private sector.

Located in Ikpoba-Okah Local Government Area of Edo State and situated 20km from the State capital, the Benin Enterprise Park is a 997 hectare, mixed-used, development designed to accommodate light industries and residential zones. The western edge of the BEP runs parallel to the Benin-Sapele highway (at a distance of less than 1km); and it is this highway that connects the BEP to the Benin airport, seaport and nearby urban settlements.



The BEP will be equipped with state-of-the-art civil infrastructure comprising graded plots, roads, power, water, communications, drainage, sewage treatment plant, effluent treatment plant, storm water drains, rain water harvesting, firefighting etc. It will also include specialised infrastructure, such as quality control labs, quality certification centers, raw material storage, and other warehousing and logistics services.

Many of the key challenges facing industrial businesses in Nigeria relate to the lack of basic infrastructure services. In particular, reliable electricity, gas, water and waste treatment services are not readily available. Consequently, most companies are forced to invest heavily in sub-scale and expensive electricity generation, water supply and other utilities with a correspondingly negative impact on their manufacturing efficiencies.

Added to these infrastructural challenges are difficulties in acquiring land with clean title and in accordance with international social and environmental standards.

To address these challenges, the BEP will offer its tenants a master-planned site with reliable, centrally provided, electricity, water and gas supply; and each plot of land will come with secure title. The BEP will have residential sites that serve the interim and long-term accommodation needs of its tenants; and key supporting facilities will include healthcare, leisure and recreational activities, shopping sites and concierge services.

The BEP will adhere to world-class environmental standards and be subject to strict development controls.

In order to mitigate the risk of speculative investment and ensure that what is built suits the requirements of potential tenants, the BEP will be developed in phases. Prior to each development phase, the amount of land cleared and developed (and any phase-specific infrastructures) will be shaped through active dialogue with tenants, to reduce the chances of unnecessary or premature investment.

For example, the first phase will be approximately 50 hectares in size, following intensive dialogue with our anchor tenants about their specific infrastructure and land requirements.

Benin City serves as a uniquely nodal location for the delivery of both natural gas and electricity. Inter alia, the city is host to two of the country's largest power generation plants (the 461MW Azura-Edo Plant and the 450MW Ihovbor Plant) with a combined generation capacity of more than 900MW.

The Benin Main Substation also boasts more high-voltage connections (east, west, south and north) than any other switchyard in the country and the newly constructed Benin North Substation has served to further enhance the status of Benin City as the country's largest single electricity transmission hub.

The country's largest, and most critical, gas trunkline is the Escravos Lagos Pipeline System ("ELPS") and the ELPS runs directly through the centre of Benin City. More im-

portantly, the route of the ELPS runs directly parallel to the western flank of the BEP at a distance of just under 5km.

In addition, Edo State also boasts one of the country’s largest gas processing facilities at the Oben Gas Plant (which currently supplies gas to the Azura-Edo IPP and to other power plants and industrial facilities across the country).

The combination of all the factors noted above ensures that both electricity and gas can be sourced at the BEP at prices far lower than are obtainable anywhere else in the country. This makes the BEP extremely attractive for energy intensive industries that produce textiles or building materials (glass, ceramics, steel); cold storage warehouses; food processing and beverage factories; and electricity intensive data warehousing.



away from Benin City. From the BEP, drive 4 hours east, west, south and north and you will describe a radius encompassing more than a 100 million people. Simply put, there is no city, in the whole of Africa, that can reach as many people, within such a small radius, as Benin City.

The development concept is based on a climate integrative approach that takes account of the existing site conditions such as wind, rainfall, topography and existing vegetation. The site is divided into two zones, which are buffered by a green spine. The industrial zone in the north and the residential zone in the south allow for a highly flexible and market oriented development phasing.

The industrial zone has a typical grid structure in order to be able to accommodate large scale industries; but it is also adapted to the local climate conditions to enable critical ventilation as well as drainage solutions. By contrast, the core of the residential zone is formed by a central mixed-use district, which integrates various forms of living together with commercial and office uses, as well as public service facilities.

And throughout the site, green open spaces act as buffer zones as well as ventilation corridors, thereby ensuring a high quality living and working environment within the BEP.



The location of the BEP ensures that it sits in a uniquely privileged position within the continent’s single largest country (measured by both population and GDP). This is because Benin City is the most “nodal” city in Nigerian. It is at the centre of a nexus of major inter-state highways and it is close to multiple large metropolitan centres.



The transportation concept is predicated on a central access loop for the industrial zone, providing easy access from the main Benin-Sapele highway. The residential zone will have separate access points in order to avoid any truck traffic through the residential neighbourhoods. Key utility service zones (energy, sewage, etc.) are located at strategic points in the BEP. The power generation facilities and gas receiving station are concentrated in the north east quadrant whilst other utilities (e.g. water supply and waste treatment) allow for decentralisation at nodal points within the site.

More specifically, 32 of these cities were less than 400km

### Edo State Government

Edo State Government is committed to improving infrastructure facilities to attract large-scale investments. Recent developments in Edo State include the Azura-Edo IPP, Nigeria’s first privately-funded 461 MW power plant which has been operating since May 2018, the Nigeria Shippers Council, a truck transit terminal, and a partnership with China HarbourEngineering Company to build the Benin River Port which will also support import and export activities in the Benin Enterprise Park. Edo State has worked on the initial development plans of Benin Enterprise Park and has secured land for the site in the State.

### Amaya Capital

Amaya Capital, is a principal investment firm focused on energy infrastructure projects in Africa. During the past decade, the company has taken a lead role in raising more than \$3 billion in capital for a variety of projects. Amaya Capital is best known for its role as the founder and lead sponsor of Azura Power Holdings Ltd (“APHL”).

Between 2010 and 2015, APHL developed and arranged the financing of Nigeria’s first large-scale independent power plant (the 461MW Azura-Edo IPP) and in 2016 it entered into a joint venture with Actis to turn APHL into a pan-African IPP platform with a budgeted equity deployment of circa \$500 million and total capital of more than \$1.5 billion.



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# EDO STATE IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS

– Dr. (Engr.) Charles Akhigbe.

*AMES-Edo Inland Dry Port is the first dry port to be conceived in the whole South-South of Nigeria and is in Edo state. As a private sector organization, operating in Edo State, Kunle Aderemi, Publisher/ Editor-in-Chief of InvestAfrica Magazine, discussed with, Dr. (Engr.) Charles Akhigbe, CEO, AMES-Edo Inland Dry Port.*

## **How would you assess Gov Obaseki's policy on Industrialization of Edo State?**

Industrialization is the very heart of sustainable economic growth and productive future. Governor Obaseki has from inception of his government sat down in various meetings with the private sector sought inputs into Edo state indus-

Benin Chamber of commerce (BENCCIMA), manufacturers association of Nigeria (MAN) and other private sector SME organizations. The government must ensure meaningful engagement through tasks and targets for this private sector businesses at the same time ensuring that government policies does not frustrate them out of business. I encourage the governor to hold quarterly one day business meeting with the private sector to promote their businesses. The Governor remains the Chief Marketer for the state. The Governor should hold press conferences with the private sector. Let the world see him in action supporting the private sector. I encourage him to drive industrialization by marketing Edo state to the world.



trialization policy. I was contacted by the government to make inputs personally. The final document that was circulated is a demonstration of the desire of the Governor to promote a clear shift from the past to pursue industrialization that is sustainable, while creating new jobs, open up the space for private sector commerce, innovation and entrepreneurship and promote environmental justice.

## **Increasing growth rates, generation of employment opportunities and sustainable economic growth and development has been the focus of Edo State Government on Industrialization, what should the government add to this?**

What government should continue to do and not relent in is the continual engagement of the private sector. The private sector must be promoted as the engine of commerce and their growth from one level to another must be kept in clear line of sight. Government must craft deliberate policies to support the private sector. One sure way of achieving this is to ensure veritable partnership with the

## **How has your business fared during the first four years of the present administration?**

The outgoing 4 years has brought great tidings to Edo state businesses. The state law banning community development associations was the first pointer as to what is to come. The Governor working in solid partnership with His Royal Majesty, Oba Ewuare II and in active recognition of the devastating activities of the CDA's enacted the law to protect businesses and private properties. This has helped in many ways to secure property, investment and propel commercial activities. During this period, AMES-Edo Inland Dry port was awarded her certificate of occupancy as required by the Federal Government before approval could be granted to commence operation as a port of origin and destination. Thanks to the Governor's magnanimity, Edo state is gradually being placed on the global shipping map. Edo state is also being recognized as a solid logistics hub.

## **What value has your business added to Edo State Economy?**

AMES-Edo Inland Dry Port is the first dry port to be conceived in the whole South-South of Nigeria and is in Edo state. The dry port can hold 20,000 total equivalent containers (TEU) at any point in time. The dry port has the potential to create over 15,000 jobs over the next 2-5 years when it fully takes off with receipt of container cargos and export of agricultural products, solid minerals, and other products. The dry port is being designated a custom port. We are currently working with the Nigeria Export promotion council (NEPC) to commence export operation from the dry port as a dedicated facility to Europe and rest of the world as regards non-oil export. AMES dry port management has provided offices for all relevant Federal Government agencies at the dry port to commence operation and Phyto-sanitary testing of agro-exportable products to ensure quick turn around for perishable goods to export. The activities of the dry port will yield more internally generated revenue for the state government, create sustainable jobs in freight forwarding, custom clearing agents warehousing, expand the logistics capacity, training agencies and many more opportunities that would evolve thereby asserting Edo state position as a place to do business.

**What will you want the present administration do to improve Edo State Industrialisation policy?**

All the state government needs to do is promote the state capability and capacity to welcome the private sector to the state through deliberate release of the state incentives available. The state government website should have all that it takes and requires to do business in the state. The government should work closely with the state chamber of commerce. The government should demonstrate to the over 2 million Edo diaspora that they are welcome to come back home and invest their hard-earned money to commence their business operation. The government should demonstrate support to the existing businesses through deliberate policy to promote their businesses. The governor and other state officials should hold quarterly regular meetings with SME's and Chamber of commerce and MAN to channel energy towards driving a new data base of businesses and develop statistics the government can use to understand the growth of old and new businesses in the state.

**Your business is a key driver for economic growth of Edo State, how have you been able to grow your business?**

AMES-Edo dry port remains a major landmark organization that will ensure that Edo state position as a global logistics hub is promoted and sustained. The recent grant of Federal Government approval to commence operation as a dry port means we immediately require more investment to ensure procurement of modern equipment and ensure quick cargo facilitation. The potential for the business to grow and leap to greater heights is unparalleled. With the recent FG approval, we assure Edo people all over the world that they can ship their containers directly to Edo state from wherever they are in the world. The shippers and freight forwarders would deliver their containers to

Benin-City, Edo State. Same thing for exportation of goods from inland Edo state to the world. This would effectively save costs and so many worries going to Lagos to clear and retrieve imports. AMES-Edo dry port is hopefully working with the Federal Government to link the dry port with KOKO Port in Delta state being the nearest port to the Edo dry port. As you may be aware, the NEPC commenced export promotion through the KOKO port since 2019.

**Any Challenges?**

There are always recurring challenges in our business especially the 3.5km road access to the dry port from Benin-Sapele Expressway. We also require that power be connected to the dry port as part of state government contribution. But not insurmountable as the Governor has earlier promised that the road will be constructed. There is no better time than now to fix the road to give confidence to the shippers and other agencies and private businesses that the dry port is now open for business operation.

**What are your aspirations or hopes from government, during the next four years?**

Our hope is that the state government would continue to generally promote business organizations and not relent in marketing Edo state as a destination where key infrastructure and projects would be installed. No business or SME can grow in isolation. State government must play her concerted role. All business incentives should be published on the state government website. Investors must be able to go online and search for information.

**Please Introduce yourself and your business**

My name is Dr. (Engr.) Charles Akhigbe. I am a graduate of mechanical/production engineering. I have master's degrees in oil and gas, project management, industrial engineering, strategy management, farm mechanization and management, diploma in logistics/warehousing from Lagos business school and various institutions. I am a Rotarian and Vice President of the Benin Chamber of commerce, member MAN Edo/Delta region, member Nigerian society of Engineers and so many social clubs. I promote the cause of humanity through Rotary.



# ECONOMIC *OUTLOOK OF* EDO STATE

*-ESIPO*



**Kelvin Uwaibi** Head, ESIPO

Edo State Investment Promotion Office (ESIPO) was established in January 2018 by the Governor Obaseki led administration.

ESIPO becomes one of the best things that have happened to Edo State in recent times. The reason is obvious. Before now, there was Ewu Flour Mills, Bendel Brewery among other companies in the state. These companies became moribund as a result of many challenges faced. Today, the coming of ESIPO has reinvigorated the system to cause a rapid response to such challenges.

**The vision:** To make Edo State the preferred destination for investors by providing first-class services through its team of professionals.

ESIPO provides a platform and ensures that investors who desire to invest in Edo State enjoy a seamless experience. The office attends to a wide spectrum of issues ranging from inquiring on immigration, land and property acquisition for business and related purposes, taxes, levies, customs and excise, bilateral/multilateral relations to intergovernmental and inter-organizational relations.

**The mission:** To work with all relevant stakeholders through a well-defined synergy and provision of excellent services to attract, stimulate and facilitate investments.

The agency has in its mandate to facilitate investments, stakeholders' engagement in order to improve the business environment in the state.

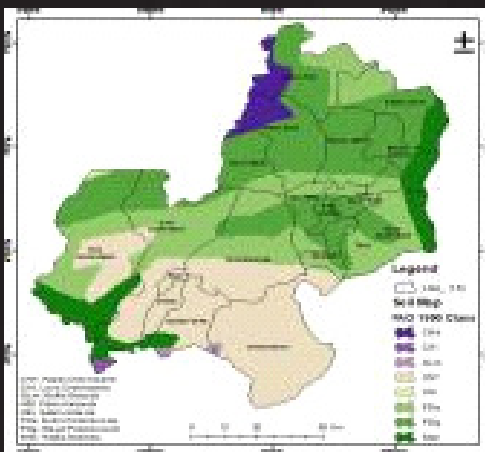
It also provides aftercare services to the private sector and identifies investment opportunities and data in targeted sectors where the state has comparative advantage, thereby boosting competitiveness and attractiveness to the private sector and ease of doing business.

Edo State Economy is largely Non-Oil sector driven, with focus on services, agriculture and industry. The state has a GDP of N2.4 trillion with the budget of 2019 pegged at N183.7bn and IGR at N25.8Bn. The state economy is expected to grow at an average 2.93% in 2020.

- The state government plans to stabilise the macro-economic environment through effective use of fiscal policy. This will enable businesses, investors and households plan/implement production, investment and consumption activities effectively, resulting in GDP growth.

**LAND MASS**

Edo State is the 22nd largest state in Nigeria, with a land mass of 17,802 km<sup>2</sup>. It has a population of 3,233,366 million (NPC 2006 census) and shares common borders with - Kogi, Ondo, Anambra and Delta.



**CULTURE AND TOURISM**

Edo is rich in culture, tourism, and sports. Some of its cultural heritage and historical landmarks include, Oba’s Palace, Somorika Hills, Okomu Wildlife sanctuary, Oghodogbodo cave, Ogba zoo, the Benin Moat, and the Queen Emotan Statute.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

In terms of infrastructure, Edo has a significant Infrastructure stock. The state strategically connects to all parts of the country because of its gateway status to different geo-political zone of the country, and is situated along several strategic national transport infrastructure corridors. In terms of Rail transportation, there is Warri-Ajaokuta/Abuja Railway. In terms of Air transportation, there is Benin Airport, owned and operated by the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN). The airport is one of the oldest in the country built in 1956 by the former Public Works Department (PWD). The State also shares some sea port boundaries with regions in delta state that includes;

Warri, Sapele and burutu

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

The natural endowments in Edo State include: “Crude oil, Natural gas, Claychalk, Limestone, Marble, Gypsum, Feldspar, Gold, Granite, Dolomite, Galena Tantalite, Gemstone, Quartz, Bitumen, Bentonite and Laterite. In terms of Agriculture which is the predominant occupation of the people, Edo has cash crops such as rubber oil palm, timber, and cocoa.

**GEOGRAPHY**

The geographical location of Edo State gives its comparative advantage as a Logistics and trade hub, with endowment of minerals and agricultural resources.

The major languages spoken in Edo State are Benin, Afemai and Esan. There are several other ethnic groups in the state.



**WorldRemit**

## INVESTMENTS IN EDO

The opportunities in the state as earlier mentioned have been attracting big players in local and international business space. Some of the notable capital formation activities and investment pipelines include:

Guinness Capital Expenditure of N8.5bn in 2016 in Brewery; Nigerian Bottling Company planned capacity expansion of \$600mn to its already huge investment in Edo state;

BUA Cement investment of \$600mn in Okpella; DangCem planned \$1bn investment in Okpella; Dangote Fertilizer plant of \$2bn; Azura Power Plant of \$900mn; Okomu-Capex of N2.6bn and retained earnings of N4.9bn in 2016;; Presco- Capex of N19.6bn and retained earnings of N20.7bn in 2016.

## EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

In line with the economic transformation of the Governor, the Ease of Doing Business Secretariat was established. The intention is to make the state a preferred destination for investors. This has brought about:

- Improving the business environment
- Rebuilding critical infrastructures
- Opening access to markets
- Swift issuance of Certificate of Occupancy with the creation of Edo Geographical Information System (EDOGIS)
- The ongoing establishment of Small Claims Court within the State Judiciary
- Reduction time in obtaining building permits

## AGRICULTURE

Investment initiatives are on-going in the agriculture sector. These include, but not limited to the following:

- African Palm Oil Initiative (APOI): APOI is a public-private partnership which partners came together from different countries to take collective action with regards to reducing deforestation in the African continent. Edo State being a major palm oil producing state in Nigeria, with this initiative, is attracting more investors, as well as international attention.

- DUFIL: This is 17,954 hectares of palm oil production in Ovia North East LGA/Uhunmwode LGA- Project facilitation work is in progress.

- Smallholders Farm Initiative: As part of efforts to actualize the promise by Governor Obaseki led administration to create 200,000 jobs, Edo State Investment Promotion Office (ESIPO) has made remarkable steps to collaborate with Okomu Oil, IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative, Ambrose Ali University (AAU), and Terra Agric to develop Oil Palm smallholder's plantations in the state within the next six years

- Edo Food and Agric Cluster (EDOFAC): This is another initiative of Edo State Government through the Edo State Skills Development Agency (EDOJobs), in collaboration with Edo State Investment Promotion Office (ESIPO) to tap into the great potential of the agriculture sector, create jobs and provide improved livelihoods for citizens. The cluster which was commissioned in the 3rd quarter of 2018 has affected the lives of over 1,300 farmers in Ehor Community.

- IFAD/FGN/NDDC Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises (LIFE) Project- Niger Delta:

The objective of this project is to enhance income, food security and job creation for rural youths and women through agri-enterprise development on a sustainable basis in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

- Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (L-PRES):

This is a six-year World Bank assisted proposed project, with the objective to improve productivity resilience and commercialization of selected livestock value chain.



# THE EDO STATE AGRIPRENEUR PROGRAM

**T**he program is being coordinated by the office of the Special Adviser on Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security. The Programme has achieved the below milestones.

## Crop Production

- Cultivated over 10,000 hectares of land across the three senatorial districts.
- Each farmer is assigned 5 hectares of land to cultivate rice, Cassava or maize
- Rice farm locations: Agenebode, Iguoriakhi/ Iguomon, Illushi and Warrake
- Maize farm locations: Usugbenu and Sobe
- Cassava farm location: Oria (500 Women empowered)
- Collaborate with Elephant Group to cultivate over 1000 Hectares of Cassava in the three senatorial districts of the State: Auchi, Ubiaja and Ugo

## Animal Husbandry

- 158 Poultry Farmer
- 125,000 BIRDS (500/1000 Per Farmer)
- 9 Locatio/Clusters
- 50 Fish Farmer (1000 Fishes per Farmer)
- 50,000 Fishes (CatFish)

# EDUCATION

**T**o ensure that investors have access to future skills as maybe required the Government tackled education from the foundation.

The success stories recorded in this sector include:

## □ **Edo Basic Education Sector Transformation (EDOBEST):**

The State government has carried out the implementation of modern teaching techniques and technology-driven learning through the EDOBEST programme. Under the EDOBEST program 75% of the primary schools in the State now use digital teaching tools for learning. Also 9,000 Teacher were trained.

## □ **The Tayo Akpata University (Abudu Campus):**

This campus was set upto serve as a training centre that provides continuous training and development for basic education teachers.

## □ **The Revamp of Government Science and Technical College (GSTC):**

The facility is equipped with a dedicated 33kv line from the Benin North electrical sub-station which draws power from the NIPP Ihonvbor/Azura Power complex and a 45mbps fibre optic cable serving the college.

# ELECTRICITY POWER GENERATION

Power remains a critical factor for economic and industrial development Investment attraction largely depends on power. Therefore, Edo State, in collaboration with Azura Power West Africa, established it's first financed Independent Power Plant (IPP) in Nigeria, known as Azura-Edo Power Plant. Also, the State government has signed a Power Purchase Agreement with Ossiomo Power for the development of 55MW power plant to stabilize electricity across the Benin City Industrial Zone.

## SOLID MINERALS

In Edo State, there are about 200 solid mineral deposits, including Marble, gold, granite, limestone, kaolin, gypsum, feldspar dolomite, tantalite, gemstones, quartz, bitumen, bentonite. They are scattered across several villages and communities in Akoko-Edo, Owan East, Owan West, Ovia South West, Etsako West and Etsako East local government areas of the state. In 2019, Governor Obaseki restructured the Ministry of Oil, Gas and Solid Mineral. The Ministry is also charged with the responsibility of data gathering, policy formulation, implementation and regulation of mining activities in the state.

## HEALTH

*To ensure that investors have access to quality health care services significant improvements have been made in the health sector*

### Edo State Health Care Insurance (ESHI) Scheme:

This scheme is a fall out of the National Health Act which supports Universal Health Care Reforms to ensure that everyone gets access to health care. The ESHI Agency is backed by law and becomes effective from January 2019.

□ Edo Health Improvement Programme (EdoHIP): The programme envisages a comprehensive revamp of basic, secondary and specialist care as well as innovative funding for the health care system for sustainability.

• The opening of the Benin Medical Center (BMC), a privately owned entity.

• The renovation and opening of the Central Specialist Hospital to the public.

□ Setting up of Primary Health Care Centre (PHC) across all wards.

## TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

Safe and easy transportation of goods and people is one of the fundamentals in developing a prosperous economy as well as investment attraction.

The achievements of Governor Obaseki led administration in this sector include:

□ **Public Transport System:** In improving the public transport sector, this administration, through the Edo City Transport Service (ECTS) initiative, acquired 75 buses and refurbished

70 old Daewoo buses to facilitate easy and safe movement of goods and people within the State.

□ **Private Transport System:** In encouraging investment in the transport sector, Uber, a Ride-Hailing Company and Bolt

have been attracted to Edo State to render efficient services thereby creating more job opportunities for the citizens.

## HOUSING

Housing is another viable sector in Edo State. In recognition of the need for adequate and affordable modern housing in the State, the State government, in partnership with Mixta Africa embarked on a 1,800-unit Housing Project known as Emotan Gardens. The project is a 70-hectares land area and features 2-3-bedroom flats, villas, bungalows and terrace homes. The Housing Estate includes a heritage park to showcase the rich culture of Edo People. The sector has also experienced private investments from Edos in the diaspora. The sector is estimated to be over 2 Billion Dollars in investments.

## SPORTS

As part of attracting investments, improving the economy and wellbeing of residents, the Edo State government has made progress in repositioning sports in the state. Some of the efforts so far include:

□ Edo State Sports Commission Bill which has been passed into law.

□ Establishment of Edo State Sports Commission.

□ Reconstruction of the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium to meet international standards. This has attracted the endorsement of the facility by the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) in Nigeria's bid to host the 2020 Under-20 female soccer tournament.

□ The State is prepared to host the 2020 edition of the National Sports Festival. The sport festival will boost Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

These meetings were either organized by ESIPO or in collaboration with MDAs, business community, or private investors.

The aim of these meetings was to facilitate investment promotions in the State. Below is a list of some of the business meetings and investment promotion events :

•A review meeting with the World Bank officials in Benin City on March 25-26, 2019

□ ESIPO meeting with MDAs for economic data collation and management, for the NICPS Program on March 28, 2019

□ Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment-Oil Palm meeting in Abuja, May 20, 2019..

□ One state, one product meeting at Enugu State, April 4, 2019.

□ Routine meeting with the business community in Edo State on April 11, 2019.

□ Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission(NIPC) review meeting in Benin City April 25-26, 2019.

□ Ratified ECOWAS Investment Code and Policy meeting in Calabar,

May 2, 2019.

•The Nigeria-France Business and Investment Forum in Abuja, June 19-21 2019.

•West African Ports and Rail Evolution meeting in Lagos, July 22-23, 2019.

□ Uber launch at Edo Innovation Hub in Benin City on July 24, 2019.

□ Stakeholders meeting on small holder farms in Edo- Heritage Hotel in Benin City on July 30, 2019.

•Abuja Investment EXPOs July 30-August 1, 2019.

□ Meeting with the Spanish Ambassador to Nigeria, Ambassador Marcelino Cabenasin Benin on August 1, 2019

□ Meeting with the Switzerland Ambassador to Nigeria

His Excellency, Mr. Georg Steiner and diplomats held in Benin City on August 7, 2019.

□ Edo State Development Strategy Plan, meetings held in Benin City on August 19, 2019.

•African Palm Oil Initiative (APOI) meeting held in Benin City on August 29, 2019.

•Africa Business and Investment Forum in Abuja, September 4-8, 2019.

□ Pre-meeting with key Investors and Businesses in Edo State, September 10-14, 2019.

•Abuja International Trade Fair, 21st -29th of September 2019.

□ Meeting with the U.S Consul General, Claire Pierangelo held in Benin City, September 26th, 2019

□ Meeting with Italian investors held in Benin City on October 9, 2019.

□ Open Governance Partnership (OGP) conference held in Benin City 9th-10th August 2019

•Open Governance Partnership at Douban Hotel, GRABenin City,

14th October 2019

□ NICP review meeting with MDAs held in Benin City, October 16-18, 2019.

□ Edo State Development Strategy Plan meetings held in Benin on 17th October 2019.

•African Palm Oil Initiative (APOI) training, SSG conference hall Benin City on 21st-25th October 2019.

□ National Festival for Arts and Culture held in Edo State on 16-26, October 2019.

•The Department for International Development (DFID) meeting in Chief of Staff Office on November 1, 2019.

□ Stakeholders Roundtable on the Development of Edo State Integrity and Accountability Strategy(EDSIACS) held in Benin City, November 5-7, 2019

•The 2nd Blue Cube International Arts Festival Exhibition, held in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China, where the State government showcased investment opportunities in its tourism and cultural sector (November 10)

□ Alaghodaro Summit, November 8-12, 2019.

□ Edo Trade Fair November 12-20, 2019.

□ Business Clinic organized for SMEs on November 14-15, 2019.

National Lease Conference held in Benin-City November 21, 2019.

□ One-Day Workshop for Palm Oil small holders' farmers organized by Edo State Investment Promotion Office (ESIPO) and IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative of the Netherlands on 13th December 2019

□ Edo State Palm Oil Programme December 16th 2019..

## BUSINESS MEETINGS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE EDO STATE

# AFTER SERVICES FOR EXISTING BUSINESSES IN EDO STATE

The term “aftercare” means many things to IPAs. It is defined here as the range of activities from post-establishment facilitation services through to developmental support to retain investment, encourage follow-up on investment and achieve greater local economic impact.

Some of the aftercare services carried out in the outgone year include, visitation to about 30 Industries in Edo South Senatorial district. Some of the industries visited and dates are:

## **DAY -1 (16th September 2019)**

- Amazing Grace (AmenaAcademy), Airport road, Benin City.
- Randekhi Royal Hotel, GRA Benin City.
- Yongxing Steel Aluminum Company, Benin City.

## **Day-2 (September 17th, 2019)**

- Zartech, Sapele Road, Benin City.
- Benco Aluminium & Steel, Sapele Road, Benin City.
- Edo Heritage Hotel, 2nd Ugbor, Benin City.
- Normagbon Pharmacy, New Benin, Benin City.

## **Day-3 (September 18th)**

- MUHAMMED FURNITURE, Airport Road, Benin City.,
- Wells Farm, Obagi Community, Sapele Road, Benin City.

## **Day 4-(September 20th)**

- GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC, Agbo Road, Benin City.
- PHIL-HALLMARK SUPERMARKET, Sapele Road, Benin City.

## **DAY-5 (SEPTEMBER 23rd)**

- AZAGBA MOBILE, Airport Road, Benin City.
- TAXIFY, Akpakpava Road, Benin City.
- SUBWAY, Airport Road, Benin City.
- EDO PHARMACEUTICALS, Sapele Road, Benin City.

## **DAY 6 (SEPTEMBER 24th)**

- B & J PLASTICS, Sapele Road, Benin City.
- AUSTIN LAZ, Sapele Road, Benin City.
- HALLADIN COMPANY LTD, New Benin, Benin City.
- LAPO, Dawson Road, Benin City.

## **DAY-7 (SEPTEMBER 25TH)**

- PRESCO PLC, Obayantor, Benin City.
- LILY HOSPITAL Boundary Road, Benin City.

# VIEWS ON BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN EDO STATE

*“... Edo being the third state launching this in Nigeria after Lagos and Abuja, I want to congratulate, especially Head of Investment Promotion and EdoJobs for attracting Uber to Edo State...”*

“The arrival of Uber in the state will create jobs for Edo people as they will become gainfully engaged, thereby keying into the governor’s vision of creating 200,000 jobs for Edo people”

**Governor Godwin Obaseki Represented by his wife Mrs. Betsy Obaseki During Uber Launch in Benin City.**

“We are happy to be launching the UberX product in Benin City, Edo State today. We collaborated closely with the Government of Edo State on the launch because of a shared vision to promote innovation and create business and economic opportunities in the cities where we operate. As we reiterate Uber’s commitment to expansion within the African continent, it’s important to us to work closely with policy and regulators to unlock new markets.”

**Lola Kassim, General Manager, Uber West Africa.**

“We choose to establish in Edo State because there is labour in Edo. And most of our work is labour related. Administrative cost is also cheaper here. . Also, Edo is strategically located at the centre of Nigeria. We have customers from all parts of the country”

**Tom Zhang, PRM, Nigeria Yongxing Steel Co. Ltd, Oguwa Community By-pass, Benin City.**

“we have a Consulate General in Lagos, with so many businesses. From the point of view of Switzerland, we have a key look at what makes Nigeria interesting. Many of us are in the field of machinery, pharmaceuticals, nutrition, and others. There is a huge market in Nigeria. I think the position of Edo State is good, and I think it is good to see that the positioning of the state can be strengthened strengthened even better. Being relatively close to the 5th largest economy in Africa, there is a great chance of opportunity for the economy to grow. At your disposal, feel free to request our consulate in Lagos and the Switzerland Nigeria Nigeria Business Community, which is about 50 in number to identify common grounds of benefits for both sides...”

**His Excellency, Mr. Georg Steiner Switzerland Ambassador to Nigeria.**

Edo State Investment Promotion Office is doing very well and under the leadership of the Governor, I am sure that you will be coming to develop new occupation in respect of investment. And it is important to know that the Governor is a very experienced man in investment attraction.. It’s been very interesting the way you promote Edo State. We are very much interested in growing businesses in Nigeria... it is very easy to understand that people migrate to seek for better jobs. Therefore,, investing in sectors of job creation will help in this regard”

**Ambassador Marcelino Cabenas, The Spanish Ambassador to Nigeria,**

. for this opportunity to come to Nigeria, I am super excited because there are so much entrepreneurial experience potential here and it’s a great opportunity and a great challenge. . I hope we can explore these opportunities to address these challenges in conjunction with the Nigerians, and U.S here today. So, I am honored to be in Benin City as my first visit... your country is opened to participation in NUSA... ” “... Nigeria is expected to have a population of 460 million in 2050, which would make it the third-largest economy globally. To us, if you don’t have Nigeria in your Africa strategy, you don’t have an Africa strategy”

**Claire Pierangelo, U.S Consulate General.**

“From distributional point of view, Edo State is strategically located. From here, our products are supplied to the Eastern, Northern and Central parts of Nigeria. From here, we can meet customers as fast as possible. We praise Edo State Government for setting up Investment Promotion Office. We are already feeling the positive impacts. But, it is important to mention that ETHANOL is a major ingredient for the spirit part of the business and it is imported from South Africa. If it can be sourced locally, it will be a plus”

**Kingsley Imade, Site Director, Guinness Nigeria PLC Benin Brewery.**

“... I want to commend ESIPPO because they have been able to ensure that the business environment in Edo State is taken out of the boardroom and ensure that we have a relationship with all the institutions and associations that will help us grow our businesses...”

**Mr. Joel Edionwe Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Wealth Creation, Co-operatives and Employment, Edo State**

I am a Benin man, so ,very familiar with places and people of Edo State. Haven worked and retired as a pharmacist, I decided to set up in Edo State to work with my people to get a quicker and beneficial result:”

“We have 23 different pharmaceutical products registered and certified with NAFDAC. We wish for further support from Government on Road infrastructures, electricity power, levies and dues. ”

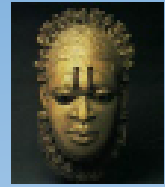
**Osador Emwinoma . A, Managing Director, Normagbon Pharmacy, Benin City.**

“...with what I am seeing, you have done well. I can already see Edo State positioning itself very well. With the indices available, Edo State has the potential of attracting quality investors into the State”

**Mr. Aminu Takuma, Director State Coordination, Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC).**



# AMES - EDO INLAND DRY PORT



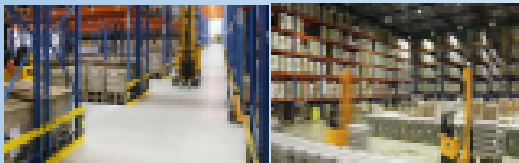
## A MODERN DRY PORT



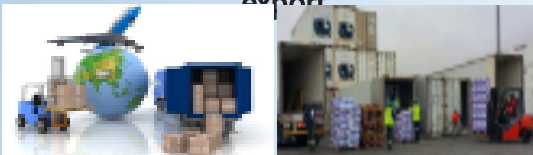
A state of the art 20,000 TEUs capacity dry port with all the activities and facilities of a Seaport but with more efficient and customer friendly services



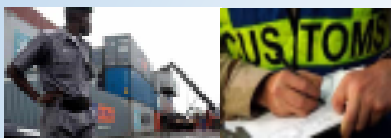
A PORT OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION



Warehouses for storage, container stuffing/unstuffing & packaging for export



Freight forwarding activities



Custom inspection and clearance



Clear your goods and smile out fulfilled

- ✓ To emerge as the premier full-fledged Inland Dry Port in the Southern region to commence operation and will immediately serve the South-South, Middle Belt and Anambra States of the country.
- ✓ Will attract 80% of cargo throughput consigned for Edo State by 2022
- ✓ Significantly decongest the Lagos Sea Port.
- ✓ Creating unique opportunity for agricultural produce packaging and export
- ✓ Shipping activities void of bottlenecks
- ✓ **Creating Employment opportunities for over 3,000**

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# Emotan Gardens

Benin City

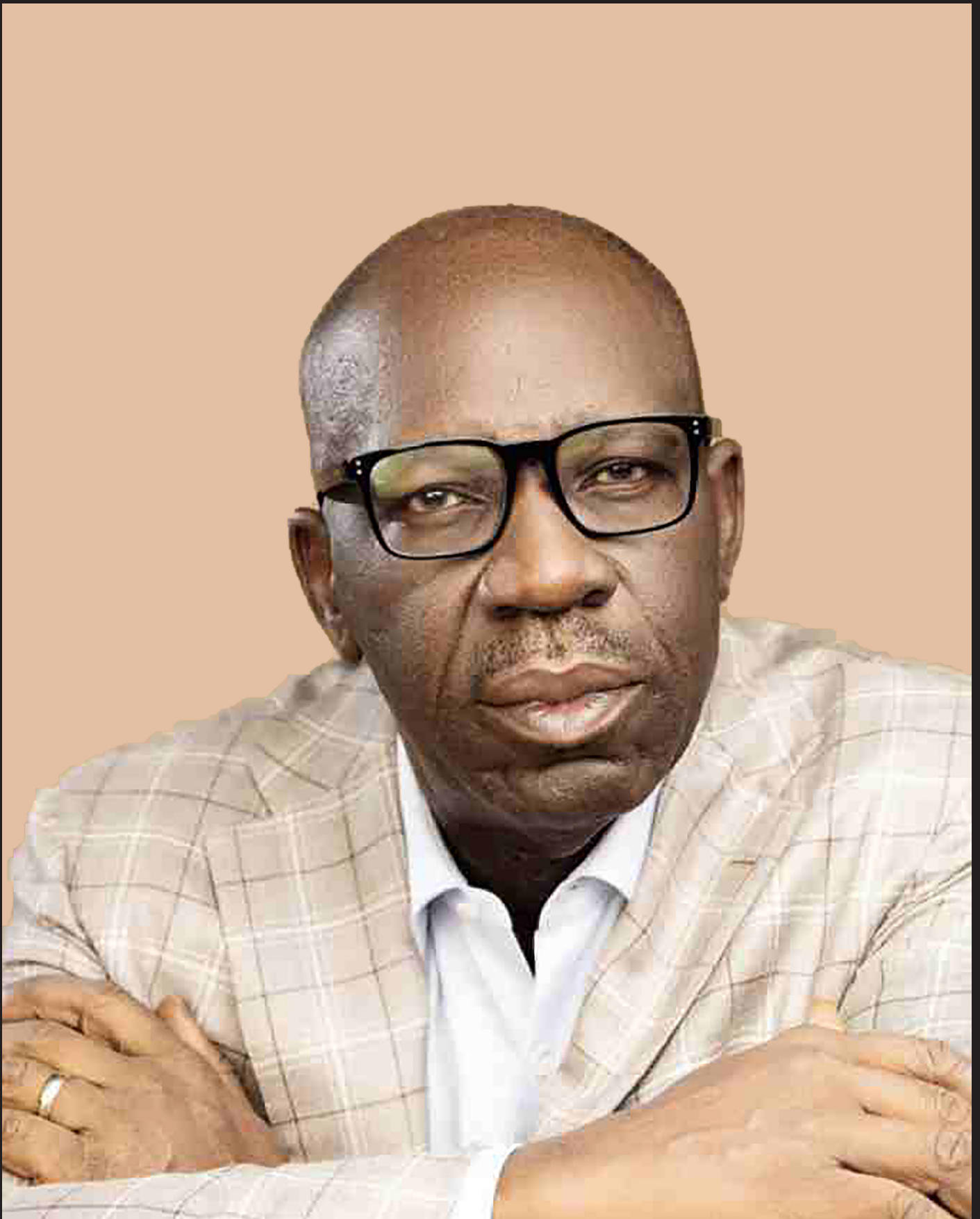
## Features:

- Good drainage system
- Green areas and boulevards, recreational parks and buffers.
- Lakes and pedestrian promenade
- Paved roads
- Shopping, office and commercial areas.
- Potable water
- Gated & secured estate.
- Electricity

**ALSO AVAILABLE: SERVICED RESIDENTIAL PLOTS, AND COMMERCIAL PLOTS**

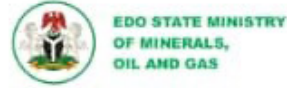
**A joint venture partnership between  
Edo Development and Property  
Agency and Mixta Real Estate Plc.**





*Edo State*  
*Industrialisation in pictures*





## Investment Opportunities in the Minerals Value Chain & Capacity Strengthening of Local Miners in Edo State.

### SPEAKERS



**Engr. Obadiah Simon Nkom**, FHMGS, FNSE, FNIME  
Director General/CEO  
Nigerian Mining Cadastre  
Office



**Kelvin Uwalbi**  
Head Edo, State Investment  
Promotion Office(ESIPO)



His Excellency  
**Mr. Godwin Obaseki**  
Executive Governor, Edo State



**Barr. S.O Oko-Ose**  
PS Ministry of Minerals,  
Oil and Gas, Edo state



**Habeeb Jalyeola**  
Director and Head  
Mining Sector, PwC



**Engr Mike Okhumode**,  
Managing Director, Somak  
Industries LTD  
Chairman, Miners Association  
of Nigeria, Edo State



**Engr Fatal Jimoh**,  
Managing Director, HNF  
Global Resources LTD.



**Engr Kingsley Ezekwero**  
CEO, Beez Mining  
& Co Ltd



**Engr. (Mrs.) Janet F. Adeyemi**  
President,  
Women in Mining



**Olayinka O. Mubarak**  
Group Head, Solid Minerals  
and Metals Large  
Enterprises Directorate

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[Invest@edostate.gov.ng](mailto:Invest@edostate.gov.ng)

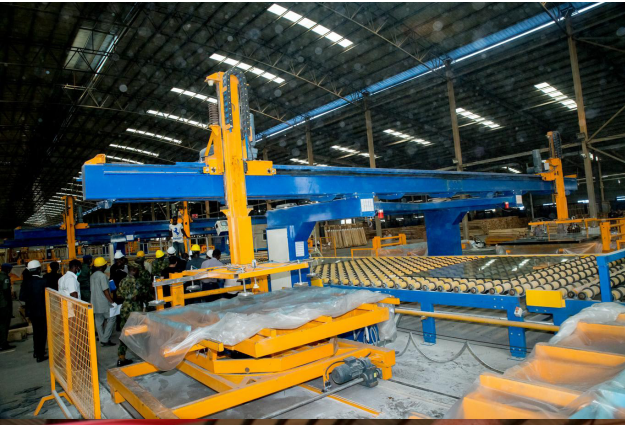


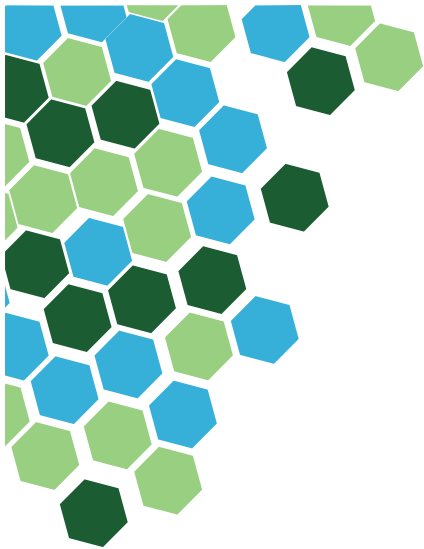
**2pm to 4pm (WAT)**  
10 September, 2020

Zoom Link:  
<https://bit.ly/2R726iy>

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Edo State, Nigeria.  
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info.presco@siat-group.com**





# WEBINAR

ORGANISED BY



EDO STATE COVID-19 RELIEF COMMITTEE UK & EUROPE

IN COLLABORATION WITH



TRADE & INVESTMENT CONSULTANTS LIMITED, UK AND EDO STATE INVESTMENT PROMOTION OFFICE.

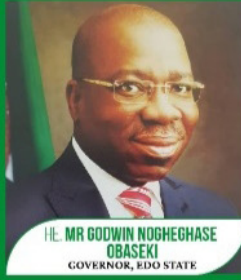
# EDO STATE SURVIVING & THRIVING BEYOND COVID-19 PANDEMIC.



DR. YABO MASHA  
Member, FIAC



NISAN ABDULKADER  
Vice President, Africa at WATIQ



H.E. MR GODWIN NOGHECHASE  
OBASEKI  
GOVERNOR, EDO STATE



MRS LANDE ABUDU  
Executive Secretary, Renewable Energy Association of Nigeria (REAN)

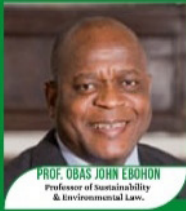


MRS VICTORIA MAEDOR,  
Head, Agrifusiness & FCMG, Bank of Industry (BOI Investment & Trusts)

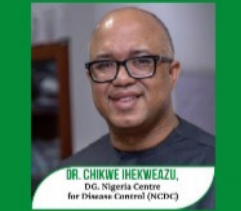
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MAY  
29  
2020



DR. LORETTA OBORO-OKOR  
(Edo Covid-19 Relief Committee UK & Europe) NHS, United Kingdom



PROF. OBAS JOHN EBOHON  
Professor of Sustainability & Environmental Law.



DR. CHIKWE IHEKWEAZU,  
DG, Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)



DR. PATRICK OKUNDIA,  
Hon. Commissioner for Health, Edo State



HON. FELIX AKHABUE  
Commissioner for Wealth Creation, Cooperatives and Employment.

TIME  
2:00 PM  
-  
4:00 PM  
(WAT)

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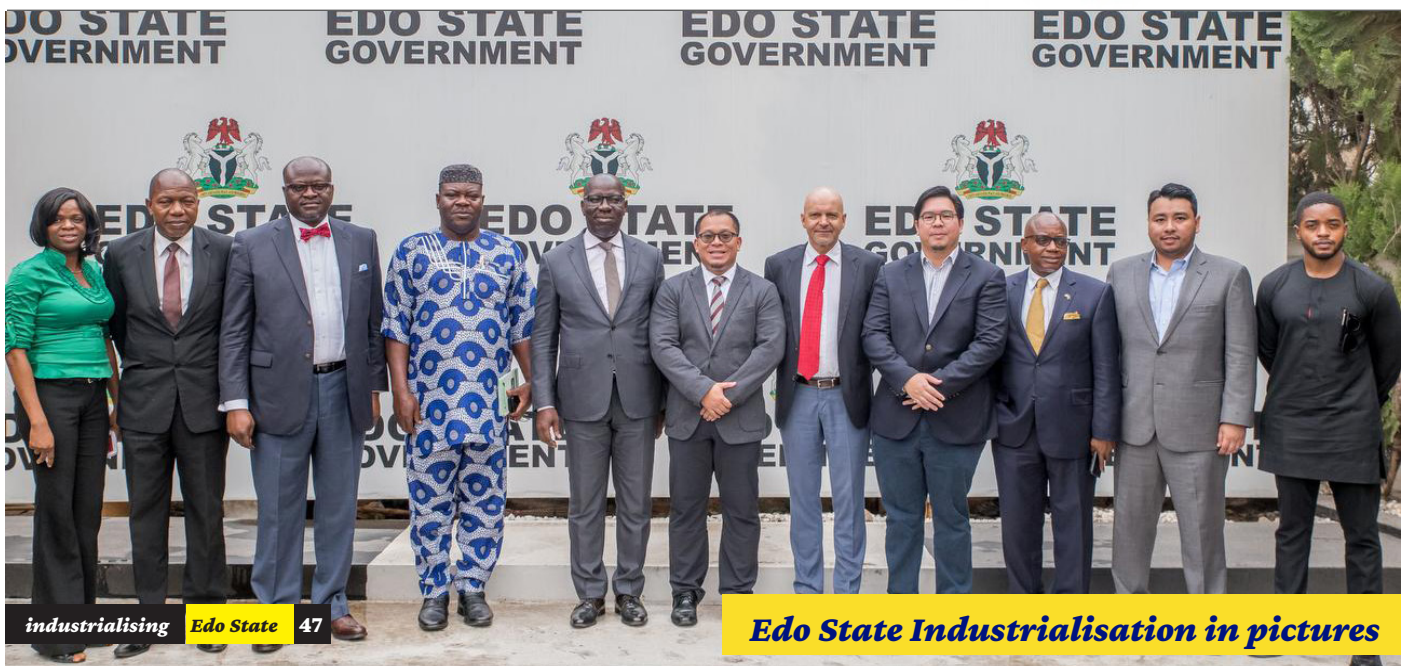


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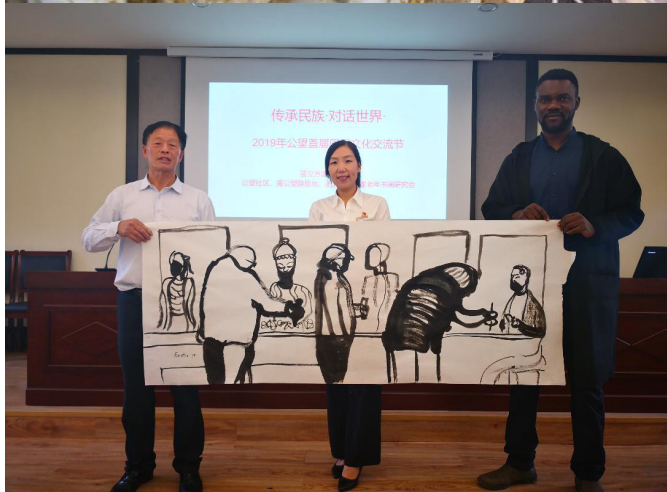
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*Edo State Industrialisation in pictures*



**Edo State Industrialisation in pictures**



**EMOWAA Archaeology Project**



As part of the EMOWAA projects announced today in Benin City, Nigeria, an innovative collaboration between NCMM, British Museum, the Royal Palace, Edo State Government, local artists and communities and other partners through Legacy Restoration Trust will investigate the archaeology of the Kingdom of Benin, including archaeological remains buried below the proposed site of the new museum through a major new archaeology project, linked to the construction of the new Museum.



**EMOWAA**  
EDO MUSEUM OF WEST AFRICAN ART

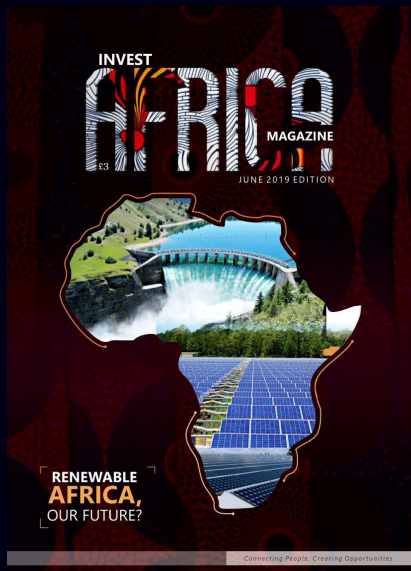
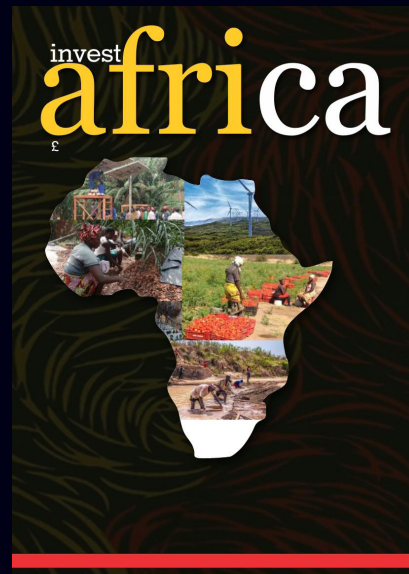
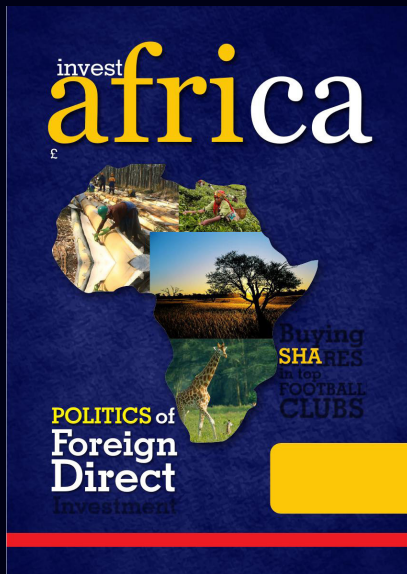
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#EMOWAA



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*Attracting investment to Africa*



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