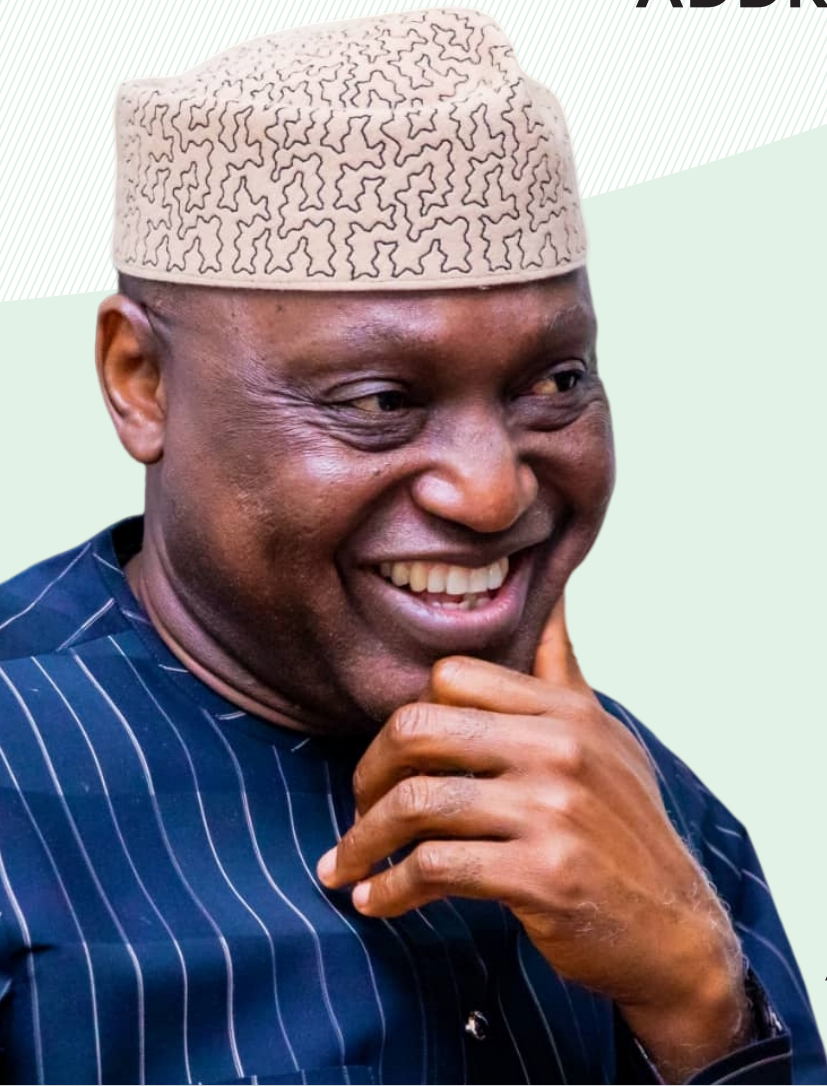




SECOND ANNIVERSARY
STATE OF THE STATE
ADDRESS



Impactful Growth

[Milestone: **2 Years**]

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024

11:00A.M.

EKITI STATE HOUSE OF
ASSEMBLY COMPLEX, ADO-EKITI

AN ACCOUNT OF STEWARDSHIP BY THE
BIODUN ABAYOMI OYEBANJI
ADMINISTRATION OF EKITI STATE, NIGERIA

Text of the

STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

by

His Excellency
Biodun Abayomi Oyebanji
Governor, Ekiti State, Nigeria

to mark the

**2ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIODUN ABAYOMI OYEBANJI
ADMINISTRATION**

Ekiti State House of Assembly Complex,
Ado-Ekiti,

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

PROTOCOLS

INTRODUCTION:

1. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honour and privilege to deliver my second State of the State address at this hallowed chamber of Ekiti State House of Assembly.
2. This tradition of delivering a State of the State Address, which represents an essential pillar of democracy and a shining example of accountability, continues with today's address. As your Governor, I come here with a great sense of reverence for this honourable House and the good people of Ekiti State, recognizing the great honour that has been bestowed upon me to occupy this office, signifying the trust of the people, not just in me, but in our great party, the All Progressives Congress (APC). I do not take this honour for granted.
3. I will continue to thank His Excellency, Dr. Kayode Fayemi who enshrined this democratic practice of accountability in our governance culture in Ekiti. To date, our
4. State remains the only state in Nigeria that has enshrined the State of the State Address as a legal requirement for stewardship. We must remain proud of this distinction.
5. I stand before you today with a heart filled with gratitude, humility, and a profound sense of duty as I address the great people of Ekiti State on a significant occasion that marks yet another anniversary in office—our second. I want to sincerely extend my deepest appreciation to the Almighty God for His faithfulness and abiding grace over us and to all the good people of Ekiti State who have continued to keep faith with us, supporting our vision, policies and programmes with great fervour. Your devotion to the progress of Ekiti State is commendable!
5. Before I go further into this address, let me sincerely thank this House and its leadership for the strong cooperation in the service of our people. Your support has been a major factor behind our successes. Together, with the good people of Ekiti, you

have been the drivers of our administration's bold march forward.

6. We will always be grateful to the fathers of this great state whose leadership in times past laid a solid foundation upon which we are now building. I therefore want to thank my immediate predecessor Dr Kayode Fayemi, CON for his continued support. I also acknowledge the support of former Governors, H.E. Otunba Adeniyi Adebayo, CON; H.E. Ayodele Fayose; and H.E. Engr. Segun Oni. I also appreciate all our traditional leaders, Leaders of Thought, religious leaders, as well as party leaders and members across all levels for their sacrifices and support.
7. My profound gratitude to the President Asiawaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR for his very strong support for our administration. Mr. President has been a strong pillar of support for our government. Most of our achievements would have been impossible without his support and encouragement. I am also grateful to the Ekiti Caucus in the National Assembly under the leadership of the Senate Leader Senator Michael Opeyemi Bamidele (MOB), Aare Afe Babalola, SAN and the Honourable Minister of Solid Minerals Development; Mr Dele Alake for their support and cooperation.

PILLARS OF ADMINISTRATION

8. In keeping with our social contract with Ekiti people, we designed the “Six Pillars”, a classification of our governing agenda built from our campaign pledges, we have continued to steer Ekiti towards a more inclusive and prosperous state. Rooted in these pillars are the Ekiti Development Plan 2021-2050, which highlights the development projection of our State in the next 30 years, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
9. Our achievements under these Six Pillars, which include: 1. Governance, 2. Youth

Development and Job Creation, 3. Human Capital Development, 4. Agriculture and Rural Development, 5. Infrastructure and Industrialisation and 6. Arts, Culture, and Tourism, will form the thrust of my presentation here today.

GOVERNANCE:

Law and Order

10. Mr. Speaker, the first duty of the government is to maintain law and order, ensuring the protection of life and property. With full appreciation of this cardinal responsibility, we have continued to make substantial investments in the security architecture of our State. To this end, we have ramped up acquisitions of security assets to further bolster our arsenal following earlier massive acquisitions. Specifically, we have effected the following: commencement of full operations at Ikere, Ijero, Ikole and Omuo Fire Service Stations; procurement of Vehicles for WNSN, aka Amotekun Corps; upward review of Amotekun Corps salary (Effective from July 2023), and the deployment of additional troops from Nigerian Army 32 Artillery Brigade. In the course of the year under review, and in response to the request of our traditional rulers, we recently established the Agro-Marshals Corps as a grassroots security system to further man our forests and places kidnappers often use as their operational bases. We have also expanded the capabilities of the Early Warning System to drive our Safe City programme.
11. Our bottom-up security and intelligence system, which entails strengthening local intelligence and community involvement in security, has continued to expand and advance. Our close coordination with chairmen of the Local Government Areas and Local Council Development Areas continues to yield dividends with more successes in intelligence gathering, crime

prevention, arrests and prosecution of criminals. This is a strategy that will continue to receive priority attention in this administration.

12. I must sincerely thank the security agencies, namely: the Police, the Directorate of State Security (DSS), the Army, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Amotekun, and the plethora of community-based security outfits, for their contribution to this success story. We are, however, aware that security is an ongoing concern and must receive the highest focus at all times. Thus, we will continue to work with our security partners to ensure that no gaps are allowed, and continuous improvement is entrenched.
13. Governance derives its force from law, and its compass from sound policies. Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the leadership and Honourable Members of the Ekiti State House of Assembly for being worthy and reliable partners in this regard. Your forward-thinking lawmaking provides a firm foundation upon which our governance rests. Some of the notable laws and policies that have come into force include:
 - i. Ekiti State Local Content Law
 - ii. Ekiti State Bureau of Asset Management Law
 - iii. Ekiti State Environmental Protection and Watershed Management Agency Law
 - iv. Ekiti State Regulation Approval Law
 - v. Ekiti State House of Assembly Power and Privileges Law
 - vi. Ekiti State High Court Amendment Law
 - vii. Ekiti State Property Protection Amendment Law
 - viii. Executive Order on the Promotion of Transparency and Efficiency in the Business Environment
 - ix. Executive Order on the

Establishment, Adoption and Implementation of Framework for Responsive and Inclusive Land-Intensive Agricultural Investment (FRILIA)

x. Executive Order on Trade Grievances Redress Mechanism (GRM).

These legal instruments are evidence of our progressive relationship. We are determined to continue, with your support, assenting to, and implementing laws and policies for the development of our dear state and the betterment of the lives of our people. We are confident that the coming months and years would witness even greater collaboration in this area.

Investment Promotion:

14. To achieve our inclusive and sustainable development goals, we must attract investments to Ekiti. Therefore, we have strategically combined legal instruments, policies, reforms, and targeted social and physical infrastructure interventions to position our State as a prime destination for investments. Our milestones are as follows:
 - Inauguration of the Ekiti State Development and Investment Promotion Agency Board
 - Effectiveness of the \$80M investment loan for the Ekiti Knowledge Zone (EKZ) by AfDB – the construction of the zone is expected to commence in 2025.
 - Provision of \$100,000 each to ten cooperatives in partnership with USADF
 - Setup of N1B cooperative fund for Ekiti Cooperative Industry
 - Partnership with Access Bank to facilitate N1B credit facilities to Ekiti women

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- Approval of Export Strategy Guideline and Policy to encourage export business in Ekiti state
- Issuance of Executive Order on the Promotion of Transparency and Efficiency in the Business Environment
- Issuance of Executive Order on the Establishment, Adoption and Implementation of Framework for Responsive and Inclusive Land-Intensive Agricultural Investment (FRILIA)
- Issuance of Executive Order on Trade Grievances Redress Mechanism (GRM)
- Rehabilitation of Agric Olope Market Phase 1 and 2

Administration

15. To improve service delivery to our people, we understand that the administrative process needs to be continuously upgraded. This, we have committed to doing. We have undertaken the following additional activities:
- Completion of the Local Government Service Commission office building, it will be commissioned in the course of this anniversary.
 - Ongoing renovation of the Ekiti State House of Assembly and House of Assembly Service Commission buildings.
 - Restoration of wireless network infrastructure to our campuses, which is a first step in our digital roadmap being championed by the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Digital Economy.
16. Fully appreciating the value of qualified personnel and their contribution to optimum service delivery, we have also undertaken the recruitment of workers to fill some important vacancies across the MDAs in the state. Some of the new recruitments include:
- 565 junior officers into the state civil service, and
 - 600 senior officers appointed into the state civil service
 - Conversion of those on temporary to permanent appointment.
17. To upskill our personnel and ensure sustained readiness for the job, we have continued to prioritize training and retraining. Our capacity development efforts, which have been largely driven by the Ekiti State Staff Development Centre, have seen us conduct:
- Induction training for 55 newly appointed officers into specialized cadres
 - Orientation programme for 80 newly recruited officers into various MDAs
 - Overseas training of two (2) officers.
18. To ensure sustained optimum output across MDAs, we have initiated Strategic Project Monitoring Systems (SPMS), a dashboard to track MDAs' deliverables.
19. For us, the welfare of all our workers is paramount. To this end, we have made additional improvements to the welfare of our workers, consistent with our earlier pledges and accomplishments. The list of welfare initiatives, include:
- Payment of N8,562,042,632.79 to state pensioners and N7,442,076,921.25 to Local Government pensioners from October 16, 2023 till date
 - Payment of N4,900,000,000.00 as gratuity to state and N2,803,562,592.72 to Local Government retirees from October 16, 2023 till date

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- Conduct of 2022/23 promotion exercise for unified staff in the LGAs
- Disbursement of N164.4M loan to 1,298 civil servants.
- Disbursement of N200m to primary school teachers

Ekiti Economy

20. Despite the macroeconomic headwinds in the country, the multi-sectoral outlook for the Ekiti state economy continues to be positive. This has been driven by our fiscal reforms, budget performance, aggressive revenue-generation push, and strategic investments in human and physical infrastructure. Building on the successes of our 2023 Budget which saw us accomplish the following:

- 106% performance on internally generated revenue (2023)
- 86.5% performance on capital expenditure (2023)
- Overall revenue performance at 93.4% (2023)
- Overall expenditure performance at 91% (2023)
- 45% allocation to capital projects in 2024 appropriation
- 34% performance on capital expenditure at Quarter 1 (2024), and
- 44.7% performance on internally generated revenue at Quarter 1 (2024)
- A capital/recurrent ratio of 57% / 43% in the 2024 supplementary budget proposal which is being considered by this honourable House of Assembly.

21. I am pleased to inform you that due to our fidelity to fiscal transparency and accountability:

- Ekiti ranked 1st in the PSLI Subnational Audit Efficacy Index
- Ekiti State scored 92/100 and ranked 2nd in the BudgIT State Fiscal Transparency League for Q1 2024.
- Ekiti topped the BudgIT's State Fiscal Transparency League for Q2 2024 with a total score of 97%

22. Our sacred duty is to ensure that none of our people is left behind. We will continue to prioritize inclusion for both our people and localities, ensuring that development is spread all round. Our broad vision is to have an economy that is productive, in line with our vision of shared prosperity. We will continue to invest in critical productivity drivers, while ensuring economic activity is private sector-led, by attracting new businesses to Ekiti, while also focusing on supporting existing ones to grow.

23. We are aware of our need to diversify our economy and create an environment that puts people in jobs. This is reflected in our priorities, with investments in human capital development, agriculture and infrastructure taking a significant share of our expenditure.

HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Education

As we all know, Ekiti is famed for being the home of education in Nigeria. We are a learned people committed to keeping the light of enlightenment blazing. As a government, we are well aware of our responsibility to, not only preserve this legacy, but ensure that our education is in tune with advancements in technology, innovation and the knowledge economy. To this end, we have embarked on some of the most far-reaching and impactful programmes in education to date. Some of these interventions include:

- § Payment of almost N700m as Running

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Grants to all public schools in Ekiti State for the 2023/2024 session.

- § Payment of examinations fees exceeding N1.2 billion for over 150,000 students across junior and senior secondary school exams since 2023
 - § Payment of over N2.5 billion as counterpart funding for the 2022 and 2023 Universal Basic Education Commission counterpart funding, while payment for 2024 will be made in January 2025 to ensure immediate access to additional funding.
 - Procurement of N174,032,505 worth instructional materials for primary schools
 - Procurement of 16 Toyota Corolla cars as monitoring vehicles for Education Secretaries
 - Purchase of 18-seater Toyota Hiace bus for UBEC Smart School, Ijan-Ekiti
 - Payment of car and housing loans
 - Upgrading graduate teachers in primary schools to grade level 16.
 - Various training and capacity building interventions for over 1,700 teachers.
 - Over 500 people trained on Gender Based Violence (GBV) Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)
 - Over 2,000 teachers have been recruited since the inception of the administration.
 - Multiple collaborations in agriculture introducing new techniques in over 120 school pilot farms.
 - Over N150 million in scholarships awarded to almost 1,600 students across various undergraduate and post-graduate programmes.
 - Payment of over N100 million in bursary awards
 - A sum of ₦14,293,424,499 had been expended on renovation and construction in 203 public secondary schools in Ekiti State under the AGILE project, while the following equipment were distributed.
 - 2,600 computers Laptops/Desktops;
 - 60 interactive boards, 80 Printers, 75 photocopiers, 100 solar inverters and internet services were supplied to 42 schools to facilitate e-teaching/learning
 - 32 vulnerable/children at risk and GBV survivors provided with basic needs including school uniforms, school bags, books for 2023/2024 session.
 - 2,978 furniture items procured for schools.
 - 10,011 students enrolled for Safe Space sessions (2023/2024) in 101 schools for personal development and Life Skills education.
 - 2,808 indigent students' parents were given conditional cash transfer for 2023/2024 session.
24. These massive interventions are in addition to earlier efforts geared towards improving education in the state. These include:
- Increasing access to secondary school and maintaining healthy teacher-pupil ratio in our schools
 - Renovation and rehabilitation of facilities in over 50 secondary schools across Ekiti
 - Renovation and rehabilitation of over 100 primary schools in Ekiti under the State Universal Basic

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Education Board

- Implementation of safe spaces for 6,000 students in 101 schools
- Training of 353 ICT teachers on digital literacy skills
- Digital literacy training for students of 100 public schools
- Installation of internet facility (airtel 4G/Starlinks) and inverters to facilitate digital literacy in 100 schools across all LGAs
- Training of School Security Committee Members across the 202 public secondary schools in the state
- Distribution of computers with Disability Assistive Electronic Software (DAES) in the three special schools in the state (Ikere, Ido Osi and Ijero LGAs)
- Distribution of Entrepreneurial Skill Equipment, Mobility Aids and Braille Equipment in the three special schools in the state (Ikere, Ido Osi and Ijero LGAs)
- Disbursement of N200M car/housing loan for public primary school teachers
- Addressing outstanding Universal Basic Education Board obligations to contractors
- Bolstering the financial capacity of our higher institutions by adding the sum of N500 million to their monthly subventions.
- Addressing poor infrastructure in our technical colleges through comprehensive rehabilitation of the three of them at Igbara-Odo, Otun-Ekiti and Ijero-Ekiti respectively.

The above interventions have led to a massive improvement in students' enrolment, performance, teaching, learning outcomes in the sector and a drastic

reduction in out of school children in the State. It is on record that Ekiti has one of the least out of school children in Nigeria.

Special attention was also given to the Special Schools and these are:

- ü Renovation of boys' and girls' Hostels and Dining Halls in the three Government Special Schools.
- ü Prompt release of Monthly Feeding Grants to the Special Schools and Rehabilitation Centre.
- ü Provision of ICT gadgets, including 45 Desktop Computers, 63 Laptop Computers, 3 Photocopier Machines, 3 Printer Machines, 3 Interactive Boards, 3 Lithium Batteries, 3 Charger Controllers, 3 5-KVA Solar Inverters with 16 Panels, 45 UPS, 3 Scanning Machines, and 1 Braille Embosser for the School for the Blind through the AGILE project.
- ü Provision of Vocational and Skill Acquisition equipment, such as Tailoring equipment, Hair-Dressing equipment, Food and Nutrition equipment, Barbing equipment, Hat and fascinator equipment through AGILE to the Government Special Schools
- ü Sign Language Training for civil and public servants in Ekiti State
- ü Provision of assistive devices, such as wheelchair and White Cane to Disabled persons in Ekiti State.
- ü Establishment of the first adapted classrooms in the public special schools for children with disabilities in Nigeria
- ü The first state to employ speech therapists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists in the public special schools in Nigeria.
- ü Established a children service center for children with Disabilities at the Old governor's office, Oke Ori-Omi, Ado-Ekiti

Digital Skill and Youth Employment

25. Our investments in the acquisition of digital skills by our youth has been consistent and substantial. We believe that to become a global player either as entrepreneurs or employees, requires the acquisition of relevant skills. We have continued to build on significant accomplishments in this area to expand access to sustainable opportunities for our young people. Recall that we had announced the delivery of the following, among others:

- Approval of Ekiti Knowledge Zone as a Free Trade Zone which will provide 12,000 jobs for young people in Ekiti
- Trained over 500 youths in digital skill across different skill sets through Ekiti State Digital Academy in partnership with Tech4Dev & Meta
- Leveraging on the Innovation Grant Facility of the World Bank's Innovation Development and Effectiveness in Acquisition of Skill (IDEAS) to increase access to digital economic participation by our people
- Empowered digital innovators with £6,000 in partnership iUK KTN
- Establishment of the Ekiti State Start-Up Garage.

26. MSMEs Development

- Construction of proposed Ekiti State Mega Local Fabrics (Aso Oke) Production Centre
- Disbursement of N400M grant to 922 MSEs
- Training of 100 unemployed graduates for business and self-reliance
- Sponsorship of 50 MSMEs/light manufacturing processors to the Lagos International Trade Fair

- Sponsorship of CAC certificates for 5,400 Nano, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- Construction of Women Skills Acquisition Center in Ado-Ekiti
- Facilitation of 100KVA solar inverter system for MSME cluster at the Technology Incubation Center, Ado-Ekiti
- Partnership with CoolPlus Ltd to upskill 1500 artisans to technicians on, refrigerator and air conditioning services
- Facilitation of 17,000 applications of NMSMEs for the Federal Micro-Grant Scheme

Health & Human Services

27. In the health sector we have embarked on a transformative journey towards universal health coverage, marked by significant advancements in leadership and governance, service delivery, workforce and capacity building, health promotion and disease prevention, health financing, and healthcare infrastructure. The Ministry of Health has implemented robust governance frameworks to enhance accountability and strategic alignment within the health sector.
28. To drive our health interventions, we developed a multi-year annual operational plan (2024-2026) to ensure better planning for capital projects that span more than a financial year, and prioritization of projects geared towards universal health coverage.
29. Across the three levels of care, we have embarked on an extensive upgrade of our infrastructure. These include;
- Installation of a new mammogram machine at the Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital to increase access to early detection of breast cancer.
 - Complete renovation of the theatre suites, Accident & Emergency ward,

dialysis centre and selected wards at EKSUTH to aid service delivery

- Upgrade of Ikole Specialist Hospital to a Federal Medical Center in line with our vision to become a regional health hub.
- Upgrade of the Ekiti State Drug and Health Supplies Management Agency warehouse to a pharmaceutical-grade facility, guaranteeing better storage of our drugs and consumables.
- Construction of the HMB/Doctor's Quarters Road, including a bypass to reduce burden of health workers going to give care at the hospital.
- Ongoing renovations for nine General Hospitals in Ijan, Ijesa Isu, Ilawe, Okemesi, Efon Alaaye, Iye, Ayede, Ilupeju/Itapa, and Ifaki. These facilities are also being equipped with best-in-class equipment that help improve diagnosis and treatment of diseases.
- In the course of the second year anniversary, we will be laying the foundation of a multi-purpose facility at EKSUTH, it will comprise of 80-bed ward, conference centre, modern pharmacy, a library, VIP suites, offices etc

30. Beyond infrastructure, we have instituted a series of capacity-building, professional development and training initiatives to enhance the skills and capabilities of healthcare professionals and service providers. These workforce capacity developments include:

- Training of 50 Senior-level staff from the health sector on a leadership and management executive course by the Lagos Business School.
- Training of 34 mid-level and senior

health managers on Healthcare Management and Leadership by the Center for Epidemiology and Health Development, Deloitte Nigeria, and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

- Providing opportunity for 8 of our staff (including the chairperson house committee on health) to attend a fully funded seminar in China for 2 weeks to learn about public health surveillance and public health management.
- Training of 350 facility-level staff across 120 health facilities in quality improvement modalities to enhance health service delivery across the state.
- Training of 220 health workers on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

31. With the perennial concerns about disease outbreaks, the state continues to remain on high alert. The use of rapid response teams spread across all wards in the state, and our decentralisation of incident management structures to the 16 local government areas, enable us pick up on early warning signals, and allow us respond appropriately. This work may appear thankless, but the efforts of our health team have helped curtail potential epidemics and limited our exposure to any disease outbreak this year to the barest minimum.

32. I am happy to inform you that these investments are yielding measurable outputs and outcomes. This year alone,

- More than 210,000 girls (ages 9-14) received the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine, enabling us to achieve 91% of our target coverage.
- We have identified and placed on treatment, 93% of the estimated cases of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Our ability to test, treat and help suppress viral

loads for people living with HIV/AIDS, means they can live a healthy, fulfilling and productive life.

- To keep our children's immune system healthy and support their rapid growth, we provided more than 600,000 vitamin A supplements, to children under 5 years, allowing us to achieve 81% target coverage. I must thank my dear wife, Her Excellency for her consistent support and her readiness to always lead the campaigns.
- Mindful of the rise of non-communicable diseases, we screened 1,600 civil servants, focusing on hypertension, obesity, and diabetes. This is a pre-cursor to a state-wide health promotions and awareness campaign taking place this month of October tagged “Know Your number, Control Your Number”. I am supportive of this initiative and I encourage everyone in Ekiti to come out en-masse to get screened.

33. Last year, I announced that under our flagship health insurance program (Ulerawa), we provide an explicit but guaranteed package of care, which includes free delivery across our 177 primary health centres. This year alone, over 4,000 babies born were delivered free of charge, and more than 400,000 persons have accessed free care, at our primary health care facilities courtesy of Ulerawa. I am happy to inform you that this year also, we have now extended coverage of services under Ulerawa to all 3.6million residents of Ekiti including pensioners. As at today, over 9,000 pensioners have enrolled in the program.

Social Welfare

34. Ekiti has not been exempted from the cost-

of-living crisis which has proven a huge burden for Nigerians across the country. Determined to provide relief to our people, our Cash Transfer Unit (SCTU) and Labour-Intensive Public Works (LIPW) intervention channels have continued to be sources of succour to our people. Our people have continued to receive needed support on a regular basis.

35. We enrolled 154,003 households including 581,503 individuals on the National Social Register (NSR). This provides a pool of vulnerable individuals that we can extract beneficiaries from for our different social schemes
36. We undertook the disbursement of N1.04 billion at N25,000 each to 24,780 National Social Register (NSR) beneficiaries and 16,876 Rapid Response Register (RRR) beneficiaries under the National Cash Transfer scheme.
37. We disbursed a total of N181.8m between October 2023 to July 2024 to 1326 individual beneficiaries under the Labour-Intensive Public Works (LIPW) Scheme. We also disbursed N174.8m to another set of 2000 beneficiaries under the LIPW scheme between March 2024-September 2024. The combined total under the LIPW scheme is N356.6m
38. Our senior citizens continue to occupy a special place in our welfare plans. Through our social investment schemes, we are addressing the needs of our vulnerable senior citizens by providing regular monetary support. Apart from our regular interventions, we distributed gifts to our senior citizens on the International Day of Older Persons
39. We disbursed a total of N250m at the rate of N25,000 to 10,000 individuals at 5,000 per month for 5 months between October 2023 and February 2024 under the fuel subsidy withdrawal palliative scheme.
40. Following unfortunate fire disasters, we disbursed N41.3 million to victims in Ekiti state

41. We disbursed a total of N300m under the EKCARES Social Transfer scheme to 5000 (1751 male, 3249 females) beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are a mix of aged, people living with disabilities, chronically ill and urban poor in our State
42. We have disbursed N320m to 2000 (627 male, 1373 female) beneficiaries and N185.4m to 1,159 (322 male, 837 female) beneficiaries making a total of N505.4m under the EK CARES Livelihood Support Grant scheme to household businesses
43. N89.4M was also awarded as livelihood grants to 559 beneficiaries through the Payment Service Provider (PSP) channel
44. We released N331m for purchase and distribution of items to indigent persons across the state

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

45. Agriculture and rural development is a central pillar of this administration's development focus. Food security has remained a key priority of this government. We believe strategic investments in our agricultural resources, accompanying investments in our rural areas will position our state for sustained growth and prosperity. To this end, we have embarked on the following interventions:
 - Signing of MOU with Cavista Holding to boost cassava farming and develop offtake markets for farmers in Ekiti State
 - Allocation of 1,535 hectares of arable land to 66 farmers and investors across the two farm settlements and five farm centres
 - Payment of N60M as counterpart funding for the World Bank-financed L-PRES counterpart contribution to develop the livestock sector, and the activation

of \$800,000 support from the World Bank

- Collaboration with FG to commence registration of farmers for the FG National AGRO pocket scheme (NAGS - AP) and distribution of inputs
- Mapping and profiling of livestock farmers. (11,000 farmers has been profiled)
- Set up of Grievance Redress Platforms in each of the Local Government to the State level to address the friction between herders and farmers
- Subsidized mechanization services at 50% rate to more than one thousand beneficiaries
- More than 15,000 kg of improved maize seeds; 3,000kg of faro 44 and 59 rice seeds; 20,000 seedlings of oil palm; 20,000 cocoa seedlings; and 10,000 cashew seedlings were distributed to farmers
- Agro chemicals worth N80m and 18,000 bags of assorted fertilizer to all farmers within the state at no cost to the farmers.

46. Fadama Ekiti CARES Intervention

- Procurement of Agricultural production asset/ small-scale processing Equipment to 469 farmers
- Distribution of 38,507-day-old chicks to farmers
- Distribution of 3,618 bags of poultry feeds to farmers
- Distribution of 10,000 bags of maize to livestock farmers
- Distribution of 42,150 fish seeds to farmers
- Distribution of 1,017 goats to farmers

- Distribution of 580 pigs to farmers
- Rehabilitation of 62 km of farm roads across the State
- Upgrade of 7 wet markets across the State.

47. Youth in Agriculture

- Engagement of 120 participants in the Ekiti Broilers Production Scheme (EBOPS) for cohorts 1 and 2. The first cohort (20 youths) raised and produced 40,000 table sized chicken and made profit of more than N20m which has served as the seed capital to set them as poultry owners
- Engagement of 125 participants in horticultural production
- Donation of farmers hub and greenhouse by Syngenta Foundation
- Desiltation of dams and laying of pipes from the dam to the farm plots in Erifun to ensure all the year vegetable production
- Renovation of Agricultural building and furnishing of befitting accommodation for youths at Erifun
- Engagement of 913 youths in the Bring-Back-the-Youth into Agric Programme in Partnership with YSJ Limited, cultivating various crops in land clusters across the State.

48. **RAAMP:** After the payment of our counterpart contribution of almost N1 billion, the Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP), has commenced and is now delivering on the following road construction/rehabilitation projects:

- Construction of 8.4 Enu Odi-Itaeku-Igigiri road
- Construction of 5.70 km

Omisanjana-Ben Folarin-Oke Aso road

- Construction of 7.21km Ikogosi-Aba Osun-Aba Oriokuta-Ikogosi road
- Construction of 8.77km Oye-Are road
- Construction of 1.93km Afolu-Odofoin road
- Construction of 6.68km Erinmope-Irare-Ikosun road
- Construction of 3.10km Ilupeju-Igbo Egan-Ayede road
- Construction of 4.60km Igbole-Egan-Iropara road
- Construction of 5.31km Ise Road-Imola
- Construction of 2.85km Owode-Anaye road
- Construction of 3.40km FMS-Oke Ako road
- Construction of 2.05km Ara-Ekameta School road
- Construction of 5.10km Iye-Isapa-Olopomeji-Ikun road, and

49. 32 farm clusters have been created for communities and cooperatives within the state. The state government borne the cost of land clearing and provide other support to activate the clusters. The clusters and beneficiaries are listed below:

INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRIALIZATION

50. To continue to maintain our upward trajectory in the ease of doing business, expand access to opportunities for our people, attract investments, and ease the life of our people, infrastructure development is crucial. To this end, we continue to invest massively in infrastructure development, targeting industrialization as a key focus

area. This has remained a major focus of this administration since its inception. Our aggressive drive to massively improve infrastructure and industrialize the state has impacted multiple vital sectors of the economy including power, transportation, housing, environment, water and sanitation.

51. Power Infrastructure

Given how pivotal power supply is to economic and industrial development, we are making very determined efforts to ensure that Ekiti is set on a sustainable path of improved power. To achieve this, we have embarked on the following power infrastructure projects:

- Establishment and transfer of regulatory control of the electricity market to Ekiti State Electricity Regulatory Bureau
- Identification of 4 Meter Assess Providers (MAP) and collaboration the MAPs BEDC and Ekiti State to provide prepaid meters for households at affordable cost, starting with 5 pilot communities, Erinmope, Ode, Aisegba, Imesi, Ipole-Iloro.
- Issuance of an Order on tariff setting for Ekiti State customers under BEDC/IBEDC services Areas in Ekiti State.
- Issuance of an Order on mandatory metering of electricity customers by the Discos
- Issuance of an Order on Standardization of Electricity matters of testing and certification of electricity projects for connection to all grids for all electricity distribution company operating in Ekiti State.
- With a view of increasing the commercial hours and security across the state, several solar streetlight projects were executed to enhance security and increase the business hours for State's economy
- Extension of 33KV network from 132KV Omisanjana Transmission substation to Baptist High School and Connection of Ilawe 33KV line to Erijiyan and Ikogosi to boost industrialisation and tourism in Ekiti State
- Extension of electricity and installation of transformer at Aba Iya Medi and adjoining communities, Ado Ekiti
- Replacement and installation of transformers in various communities
- Rehabilitation of 33KVA network from Ilumoba to Ikole Ekiti
- Extension of 33KVA electricity network from Ilawe to Igbara Odo Ekiti
- Extension of electricity to Abegunde Avenue and Akeju Lane in Emure
- Extension of 33 low tension concrete poles (8.33m) 0.415kv 3 phase of neutral line at Olorunsogo street, Ise/Orun Local Government, Ise-Ekiti
- Rehabilitation and connection of Erijiyan, Ikogosi back to the National Grid
- Rehabilitation and connection of Ipole Iloro back to the National Grid
- Rehabilitation and connection of Ijan, Ilumoba, Aisegba, Agbado, Imesi, Ode, Isinbode, Egbe, Iro Ayeteju and Omuo in Aiyekire back to the National Grid
- Extension of electricity from Omuo Ekiti to Eda Ile, Ikun Oba, Araromi and Ilasa Ekiti

- Extension of 33KV line from Eruku Kwara State to Agricultural Zone in Iyemero/Installation of transformer
- Extension of IPP to Textile Industry, Basiri, Ado Ekiti, Elders Person's Resort, Broadcasting Service of Ekiti State and other strategic locations
- Extension of Electricity and installation of Transformer at Efon Alaye Water Treatment Plant (WTP) of Ekiti State Water Corporation to enhance water supply (on-going).
- Purchase of 16Nos. 500KVA transformers for distribution.

52. Transportation Infrastructure

To improve our transportation infrastructure, we have embarked on several critical transportation projects. These projects are vital for the development of our state, and betterment of the lives of our people. Some of the projects include:

- Reconstruction of Ikere-Igbara Odo Road
- Construction of Ekiti Ring Road Phase I
- Construction of flyover bridge from Ajilosun (Union Bank) to Okeyinmi (First Bank), Ado-Ekiti
- Construction of Obisesan – Oke Ala – Basiri Road, Ado Ekiti
- Rehabilitation of Ikere-Ise-Emure Ekiti Road
- Rehabilitation of Ilawe-Erijiyan Road
- Construction of dual carriageway on GRA III Extension — State Pavilion Road
- Rehabilitation of Ado — Iworoko — Ifaki Road
- Rehabilitation of Igbara-Odo-

Ikogosi Road

- Re-construction of Ilawe-Ikere Road
- Re-construction of Itapa-Omu-Ijelu Road
- Re-construction of Ilukuo-Ijurin-Ipoti Road
- Re-construction of Ikole-Ara-Isinbode Road
- Rehabilitation of Igede-Ilawe Roao
- Repair of several roads within Ado Ekiti
- Completion of all necessary civil works and installation of relevant navigational equipment at the Ado Ekiti Airport
- Agric Olope, De-Head/Faglo and GRA Extension Phase I roads will be commissioned in the course of our second year anniversary. All the roads are complemented with solar street lights for illumination.

53. PUBLIC BUILDINGS

- Remodeling of Adebayo Lodge., the first Government building within the current Government House grounds
- Complete Renovation of the Deputy Governor's Lodge.
- Renovation/Remodeling of old Civil Service Commission building to accommodate Customary Court of Appeal, Ado Ekiti.
- Renovation/Remodeling of the Ministry of Justice Building at the State Secretariat Complex.
- Renovation/Furnishing of Agricultural Farm Buildings (5 blocks) at Erinfun, Federal Poly Road (Phase I), to accommodate the trainees at the farm.
- Construction of 100 bed space

capacity hostel at the Command Secondary School, Isan Ekiti.

- Yesterday, we did the groundbreaking of the construction of an Indoor Sports Complex as a mark of our commitment to sports development in Ekiti. This is in addition to other interventions in the sector.

54. Environment, Water Hygiene and Sanitation

Environmental sustainability, access to clean water, and sustained state-wide sanitation are an integral part of our development plans. We have undertaken various projects in these areas. Some of them are as follows:

- Procurement of waste collection compactor trucks, dino bins and other waste management equipment, we have also ordered for additional compactors trucks to support the current fleet.
- 12 major dredging projects across the State
- 24 desiltation projects across the State
- Drilling of motorised/solar powered boreholes in all 177 wards of the State
- Channelisation of multiple waterways and construction of concrete line drainage systems in flood prone areas
- Construction/Upgrading/Rehabilitation of WASH facilities in 110 schools and health facilities across the State.
- Licensing of 83 borehole drillers, 11 geoscientists, and 6 drilling rig owners as a regulatory measure for the control and sustainable management of underground water in Ekiti State.
- Free water quality tests and water safety awareness campaigns for water borne diseases control.

- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) initiatives for prevention of flooding, pollution and mitigation against effect of climate change on water resources.
- Extension of water supply to Midas areas, Nova and Doctors quarters in Ado-Ekiti
- Supplied 1.5MVA transformer to boost water production to Ado and Efon Alaaye from Ureje and Efon water treatment plants.

55. ARTS, CULTURE AND TOURISM

The entertainment and tourism industries continue to rise globally as a veritable economic development driver. This is why for us in Ekiti, optimizing the performance of our arts, culture and tourism sector is crucial. We continue to make concerted efforts to make our state a tourist destination, and a vibrant hub for culture and tourism.

To this end, we have undertaken various initiatives to improve the living condition of our traditional rulers through the renovation of their palaces. In the last year, we have renovated or constructed buildings in 42 palaces across the State.

We are also proud of the successes recorded by the Ekiti Performing Company, winning acclaim locally and globally. Their efforts have continued to position our state as a shining emblem of cultural richness, and we will continue to give them the full backing needed for sustained relevance. The investment of our administration in the tourism sector is also yielding fruitful results through the following:

- Ekiti Team came 1st at the international cultural exposition 2023 in India.
- 20 million naira was disbursed through Ekiti State Arts Endowment Fund. This marked Ekiti State as the first

State to implement this long-fought demand by the Nigeria's Creative Sector activists.

- Successful facilitation of heritage pilgrimage activities which led to the hosting of over 2,000 heritage pilgrims from 5 continents of the world.
- Groundbreaking and Construction of Ekiti State International Centre for Arts and Culture (ICAC).
- Continued development of community festivals to make them more attractive for tourism purposes. This is being done through partnership and collaboration with Ekiti communities for their social and economic benefit.

We are also excited about the attractiveness of Ikogosi Warm Springs and Resorts. Our decision to concession it to private operator has yielded great results and reinforces the roll of private capital in our development agenda. We will continue to build this success so that Arinta Water Falls and other natural endowments enjoy similar change in fortunes.

56. CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, in bringing this address to a close, I would like to assure you that our commitment to upholding our social contract with Ekiti people remains steadfast and unyielding. We are driven by a passionate desire to bring prosperity to Ekiti people in the quickest time possible. We understand the urgency of the development agenda and will do everything within our powers to achieve the vision of our founding fathers.

57. GENERAL APPRECIATION

I also want to heartily thank the leadership and members of the Legislature and the Judiciary for guiding the other arms of Government in the direction of peace,

progress, and justice for our dear state. Our founding fathers, traditional rulers, religious leaders and political leaders have my deepest appreciation for their consistent wise counsel and healthy interventions from time to time.

To my party, the All Progressives Congress (APC), and our leaders, thank you for the opportunity to serve our people, and for being a solid pillar of support for progressive development.

Finally, I would like to express my profound gratitude to my darling wife, H.E Dr. Olayemi Oyebanji; the Deputy Governor, Chief Mrs Monisade Christanah Afuye, members of the State Executive Council; and all our public and civil servants. Thank you all for your patriotic service to our dear State. You are the true force behind our accomplishments. Thank you!

I thank you all for listening. God bless Ekiti State

Alale Ekiti a gbe a o!

Biodun Oyebanji

Governor

APPRECIATION

We give thanks to God Almighty for His grace and favour and how far He has helped us in the last two years. We thank all Ekitikete at home and in the Diaspora for their demonstrated love and support. We appreciate the Judiciary and Legislative Arms of Government; the State Civil Service, the Private Sector, Development Partners, Critical Stakeholders in the Ekiti Project, Organised Labour, the Media, Leaders and Members of the All Progressives Congress, as well as friends of the State globally for your various forms of support, encouragement, partnership and prayers in the course of the

Biodun Abayomi Oyebanji

**Administration's two years of
keeping Ekiti Working Towards Shared Prosperity.**

We wish you journey mercies back to your destinations and assure you of our total commitment, as a government, to building on the success so far recorded, deliver on our numerous promises and continue to prioritise the welfare and wellbeing of our people at all times.

Thanks and God bless you.

Dr. Habibat Adubiaro

Secretary to the State Government



...Ilẹ̀ Iyì, Ilẹ̀ Èyẹ