



Text of the Address by

His Excellency

Mr. Biodun Oyebanji,
Governor, Ekiti State, Nigeria

on the occasion of the

SIGNING OF THE 2023 APPROPRIATION BILL “BUDGET OF STRONG BEGINNING” INTO LAW

Held at

EXCO Chambers, Governor’s Office, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State

on

Friday, December 30, 2022

Protocols

1. Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to be in your midst today to sign into Law, the year **2023 “Budget of Strong Beginning”** in fulfilment of my Constitutional obligation bestowed on me by the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) as the Governor of Ekiti State. I count it a rare privilege to serve the good people of Ekiti State in this capacity at this auspicious time as Governor of our dear State. To God Almighty be the Glory.
2. The year 2023 Budget, which is the first fiscal Document of our Administration, has been carefully crafted, after due consultation with all relevant stakeholders to lay a solid foundation for the new administration.
3. I thank the good people of our dear State for your unflinching support and cooperation since my inauguration on October 16, 2022. Your



support, which has been overwhelming, has kept us going and resolute in our determination to further transform and develop the State through our blueprint as encapsulated in the six Pillars of the Administration. I thank you all for the love, prayers and unwavering support as we settle down to impact lives and banish poverty from our land through job creation (both direct and indirect), and creating enabling environment for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to thrive and empowerment programmes for the teeming youths and women.

4. At this juncture, may I express my profound gratitude to the Ekiti State House of Assembly, in particular, the Rt. Hon. Speaker, and indeed, all the Honourable Members who have remained cohesive and impregnable. I sincerely appreciate you all for passing the 2023 Appropriation Bill in record time. The distinguished House of Assembly did not only pass the Appropriation Bill on time, but took time to do thorough legislative scrutiny to the Bill. I am aware that apart from the fact that various Committees of the House worked on the Bill, the Committee on Finance and Appropriation also engaged all relevant stakeholders and subjected the document to public opinion.
5. You will recall that, I presented the 2023 Appropriation Bill to the House of Assembly on November 3, 2022 to afford the Honourable Members sufficient time to scrutinize the Document and engage all the relevant stakeholders. This is in consideration of the recommendations of the Fiscal Sustainability Plan that ample time should be allowed for legislative processing of our Annual Appropriation Bill. During the presentation, I did emphasize the focus and vision of my Administration to make Ekiti State a land of prosperity, peace and progress: a land in which people can reap the fruits of their labour in dignity, good health and safety: a land of honour where integrity matters.



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6. I am glad to state that the distinguished Honourable members have subscribed to this vision. In actualization of the vision, the 2023 Appropriation Bill was attended to speedily but, carefully. This occasion is the outcome of the hard work, diligence and resilience of the Honourable members notwithstanding the temporary setback witnessed in the wake of the presentation of the Appropriation Bill.
 7. I am very delighted to state unequivocally that the House of Assembly worked tirelessly, conscientiously and diligently in the over-all best interest of the good people of Ekiti State to ensure painstaking and careful legislative review and timely passage of the Appropriation Bill without compromising due process and quality review.
 8. It is instructive to place on record that without negotiating the autonomy of the three Arms of Government, the 6th State Assembly has been a worthy partner in progress with the Executive rather than constituting a clog in the wheel of progress.
 9. I appreciate the commitment of the members of the Fiscal Coordinating Agencies in driving our annual Budget preparation and execution. Particularly, I commend the Head of Service, who held the fort in the absence of a substantive Political Head for the Ministry. I commend the Special Adviser on Budget, Economic Planning and Performance Management, who was present at all the venues during the town hall meetings held across the Senatorial Districts. He has also demonstrated thorough professionalism since he assumed duty in the Ministry as the Chief Executive. I sincerely appreciate the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry and his members of staff for their dedication, hard work and commitment in the preparation of the 2023 draft Estimates.
 10. As you are undoubtedly aware, Budgeting is dynamic and evolving daily. On this note, our Budget has fully adopted the National Chart of Account (NCoA) Template, which is a requirement of the State Fiscal,



Transparency and Sustainability (SFTAS) Program-for-Result and now, the State Action on Business Enabling Reforms (SABER) of the World Bank. I appreciate the Nigeria Governors' Forum Secretariat for providing technical Support to our officers in developing the latest NCoA Template which will be used in the publication of the 2023 Budget. The training provided by the NGF will be replicated across all MDAs in 2023 to further equip our officers for the implementation of the Budget. All Ministries, Departments and Agencies will be apprised of the new Template to ensure easy and seamless implementation of the fiscal Document by the end users with a view to meeting the Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) of SABER.

11. It is imperative to state at this juncture that the 2023 Budget has been designed to lay a strong foundation for our administration while leveraging on the achievements of the past administrations.
12. The 2023 Budget estimate is One Hundred and Thirteen Billion, Five Hundred and Seventy-two Million, Seven Hundred and Eighteen Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty three Naira, and Eighty two Kobo (₦113, 572, 718, 523.82), out of which seventy percent (70%) is appropriated for Recurrent Expenditure and thirty percent (30%) for Capital Expenditure.
13. The breakdown of the 2023 "*Budget of Strong Beginning*" which I just signed into Law, will be presented to the members of the public and the Press by the Special Adviser on Budget, Economic Planning and Performance Management in the coming days.
14. It is heart-warming to remark that we have kept faith with the policy of signing the annual Appropriation Bill into Law before the expiration of the fiscal year. The signing of the 2023 Appropriation Bill into Law today is a further affirmation of our readiness to ensure fiscal



discipline and effective implementation of the 2023 Budget with effect from January 1, 2023.

15. I acknowledge the efforts of our Development Partners for their collaboration to develop our dear State. Let me re affirm our commitment to greater cooperation and collaboration with the Development Partners and Donor Agencies all in our effort for accelerated development of our dear State. I also appreciate everyone who has worked assiduously to produce the 2023 Budget. Once again, I commend the partnership and mutual understanding between the executive and the legislature.

16. Thank you all for your kind attention. I wish you all merry Christmas and prosperous new year ahead.

Mr. Biodun Oyebanji,
Governor.