

ADELEKE AND THE REBUILDING EFFORT IN OSUN



Completed section of Osogbo – Ikirun road inherited from previous administration.

On November 27, 2022, Senator Ademola Adeleke took the oath of office as the 6th Executive Governor of Osun State, and right on that podium, made some promises. One such promise was that "... from education, health, mining sector, agriculture, road infrastructure, and supply of portable water, let it be known that it is no longer going to be business as usual." To cynics, it was a tall order, practically impossible to achieve. The strength of their scepticism stem from the extent of burden that Governor Adeleke inherited, which they feared will frustrate the fulfilment of his promise.

Of truth, what Governor Adeleke met on the



Completed Osogbo-Ikirun-Kwara boundary road inherited from the previous administration.



A completed road by Adeleke administration in Ikire, Irewole local government area of the State.

ground was uninspiring and capable of draining hopes. But 16 months in the saddle, Governor Adeleke has demonstrated a true sense of service in many aspects of governance, turning a lot of things hitherto considered impossible to possible. When Governor Adeleke took office, heavy indebtedness, weary civil service, and distressed public infrastructure, headlined Osun status.

A Canadian-born American economist and public servant, John Kenneth Galbraith provided some clarity to the question of the essence of leadership when he opined that "All of the great leaders have had one characteristic in common: it was the willingness to confront unequivocally the major anxiety of their people in their times. This, and not much else, is the essence of leadership." A look at Osun in 16 months of the Governor Adeleke administration will help make much sense with Galbraith's conclusion, seeing and feeling the incredible turnaround it enabled.

The strides of Governor Adeleke in office can not only be felt but are visible for all to see. And impressively, the touch of Governor Adeleke's impactful governance cuts across the state and sector, departing from the concentration of government presence in one place that defined the past. Wherever you look, the monumental impact of Governor Adeleke will stare you right in your face and are

too hard to ignore.

WELFARE

Upon Governor Adeleke's ascension to office, he inherited 30-month half salary of workers owed by the previous administration. His predecessor, Alhaji Gboyega Oyetola, was unable to address the wage-related debt throughout the four years his administration lasted, draining hopes of the affected workers in ever getting their due entitlements

On November 8, 2023, Governor Adeleke did something unprecedented, not just in Osun but the whole of Nigeria, as he enrolled the entire retirees in the state on healthcare coverage

Within 16 months of his administration, Governor Adeleke has paid six out of the 30-month half salary. In addition to this, Governor Adeleke implemented the financial implication of promotion given to workers in the state since 2019. Just like the half-salary debacle, former Governor Oyetola approved a promotion for civil servants in 2019 but refused to implement its financial implication. By May 2023, civil servants received the financial

benefits attached to their promotions along with their salary over three-workers. Governor t h e s o m e worker experi prede work hav

bringing to an end year wait of the In December 2023, Adeleke approved promotion of categories of s but unlike the ence under his cessor, the ers didn't e to wait endlessly as the financial consequen ce of their prom



His Excellency, Senator Ademola Adeleke Executive Governor, Osun State.

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Completed Enuwa-Oniyangi-Palace road in Ile-Ife

otion began to reflect in their salary less than two months after the conclusion of the promotion exercise.

The experience is not any different for pensioners in Osun state. Between November 27 and now, Governor Adeleke has expended over N17 billion in pensions and gratuities payment out of the humongous over N76 billion liability inherited from the previous government. On November 8, 2023, Governor Adeleke did something unprecedented, not just in Osun but the whole of Nigeria, as he enrolled the entire retirees in the state on healthcare coverage. The intervention, which will benefit at least 23,000 pensioners in Osun state, will take off the burden of managing the health challenges that confront the senior citizens, which usually come at a huge cost to them, and are difficult to handle, causing untimely deaths.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Governor Adeleke, no doubt, has left critics confounded as far as the infrastructural renewal of Osun state is concerned. From the time he took office and now, Governor Adeleke has constructed and delivered over 50 kilometres of roads across the state, while about 50 kilometres of roads are at different stages of completion. Broken culverts were restored for public use while channelization of waterways was undertaken by the Adeleke administration to prevent homes from being washed away by flood.

To cap it all, Governor Adeleke in October last year unveiled an ambitious infrastructure plan, underscoring his firm desire to address the infrastructure deficit and open up the state for industrialization to drive meaningful progress and prosperity for the people. The infrastructure plan, which had

already commenced and at different stages of execution, included the construction of at least five overhead bridges. The 10-span Oke-Fia bridge is at an advanced stage of completion, while Governor Adeleke recently flagged-off the construction of the Ile-Ife overhead bridge. And to note that the infrastructure plan will be funded without any loan from financial institutions to the extent of burdening the future, making it even more superb. The infrastructure plan is not just about overhead bridges. The dualization of identified roads in Ede, Osogbo, and Ilesa to open up the state is ongoing and at various stages of completion. In addition to this, Governor Adeleke will be undertaking the construction of a total of 55 kilometers of roads across the state, with each local government having at least 1.5 kilometers to improve connectivity and enhance the local economy. This is aside the ongoing effort to link town through road networks, like the ongoing Telemu, Ifon, Erin-Osun, Ikire, Otan-Ayegbaju and a host of others.

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authority to be non-compliant with aviation and Airport standard.

The Adeleke-led administration has also secured the resolution of the National Automotive Council



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on of the Mechatronic centre at Esa Oke. The centre has remained largely undeveloped for a long time. We have interfaced with the federal agency for the commencement of actual work.

Osun State, presently, is a huge construction site as most of the projects were ongoing simultaneously with most of the completion periods spanning 12 months from the time of flag off.

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR ABANDON PROJECTS

In line with the Governor decision to ensure that no project was abandoned either inherited or freshly inaugurated, the governor within his first 100 days in office ensure the completion of Kobo-Ikirun section of Osogbo-Ila Odo-Kwara state boundary road project with provision of street lighting at the Ikirun section.

Also, the governor mobilized contractors constructing the Osun-East circular road back to the site to complete the second lane of the project. Today, the second lane of the project, which was initiated by the administration of Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola, has been completed from the Ilesa Garage section to Oke-Bale roundabout Road users and stakeholders in Osogbo have continued to applaud the governor for his bold move to ensure the project is not abandoned.

Similarly, the Osogbo-Iwo-Ibadan road rehabilitation initiated by his predecessor in



A completed road in Ilesa.



Ongoing dualisation of Akoda-Okegada road in Ede

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Another section of the ongoing Akoda-Okegada road.



Inside view of the Health sciences faculty offices and lecture rooms.



Outside view of the completed Office and lecture rooms at the Health Sciences faculty of Osun State University, Isale-Osun, Osogbo.



Healthcare workers conducting surgery on beneficiaries of Imole surgical outreach.

conjunction with OyoState Governor, Engr. Seyi Makinde was neither abandoned nor tampered with. The Governor review the project to further widen its scope.

EDUCATION

Sometime in 2023, the Vice Chancellor of the Osun State University, Professor Clement Odunayo, provided a chilling testimonial on the

transformational leadership of Governor Adeleke. It was unusual, going by Prof. Odunayo's admission, as he detailed the intervention of the governor that revived a 52-office complex that was abandoned by the previous administrations. According to him, the Governor Adeleke-led administration is the first government in the state since 2010 that will execute a capital

project in the institution's history. It is worth noting that the access road to the teaching hospital of the institution being built by its Chancellor, Folorunso Alakija, is undergoing construction after prompting by the Vice Chancellor

A similar intervention was extended to the University of Ilesa, which recently took off, following the diligent foundation process. The university took off with 40 accredited courses and a sound management team, setting the pace for an institution that will last the test of time.

That was not all. Public school buildings across Osun state are getting a major facelift to give students and teachers the right environment to advance qualitative learning. In the first phase, a total of

As a result of this gesture, Osun was the only state in Nigeria that its health workers did not join in a nationwide strike last year

31 public schools across the state received total overhauling and unlike the experience in the past, students will now learn in well-structured classrooms with the right facilities, while teachers will no longer need for tree shades to hold meetings or conduct their official businesses due to dilapidated offices. The second phase is already ongoing, and just like the first phase, public schools in the state will not just be conducive for learning but also fitting for young people who trust it for their learning.

In an effort to address manpower shortage in public schools, Governor Adeleke approved the recruitment of 5,250 new teachers and education officers. Upon the completion of the recruitment process, successful candidates will undergo intensive training to be able to

deliver on the core goal of impacting knowledge on pupils and grooming them to academic success. This is the first time in the history of Osun that a governor will recruit 5000 teachers at a go. Impressive!

HEALTH

In the area of healthcare, Governor Adeleke's record of achievements is unprecedented. Upon assuming office, Governor Adeleke observed the mounting needs of the people for healthcare. In the short term, Governor Adeleke introduced the Imole Surgical and Medical Outreach, which offer healthcare interventions to the people across the nine federal constituencies. By the end of the second phase of the healthcare intervention, no fewer than 50,000 people have benefited from free healthcare services that range from surgeries for cataracts, pterygium, hernia, and some swelling on the body. Some other beneficiaries received treatments for eye problems and even got free glasses, while basic ailments like malaria also got treatments.

In the long term, Governor Adeleke is rehabilitating a total of 346 primary healthcare centres across the state to ensure better access to healthcare anywhere in the state. The rehabilitated healthcare centres will be powered by solar to enable a 24-hour power supply, while medical supplies to make them more effective will be provided. To achieve the desired objective of better healthcare, the Adeleke administration involved the people at the various local governments. Under this arrangement, the representative commitment, which is drawn from religious bodies and artisan groups, would monitor the rehabilitation of the healthcare centres to ensure that they are delivered to specifications.

Governor Adeleke approved and paid 100% hazard allowance for the state's health workers as approved by the federal government last year. As a result of this gesture, Osun was the only state in Nigeria that its health workers did not join in a nationwide strike last year. Millions of households in Osun state received 3.5 million Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (LLITN) procured by the Adeleke administration at no cost to them while the government launched the HIV/AIDS treatment surge for effective treatment and monitoring of the viral infection cases, thereby reducing the incidence/prevalence of the life-threatening disease.

MINING

When Governor Adeleke assumed office, the state's mining sector was in a hopeless situation. The mountain of outstanding charges and uncertainties on the state of mining licences are some of the issues that pervade the sector. Within 16-month, Governor Adeleke has cleared the outstanding debts inherited from the past administration on the state mining licences, took steps towards converting state's exploration licences to mining licences and secured the knotty issue of the state's shareholding with Segilola Mining Company. At the heart of Governor Adeleke's mining sector agenda is the people, and this explains why he mandated Segilola Mining Company to tar the Iperindo-Ilesa road as part of its CSR while prioritising the award of scholarship and job opportunities to indigenes.

Governor Adeleke is taking proactive steps to

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Imole medical outreach.



Imole medical outreach.



Some of the pensioners enrolled on free health insurance scheme.



Construction of the second lane of Osogbo circular road.

curb the menace of illegal mining through the setting up of task force. On the environmental impact, Governor Adeleke is working with the mining company in the state on the safe disposal of wastes and making the environment safe for residents.

WATER

Governor Adeleke inherited a water crisis in the state. Most of the water dams in the state are in a state of disrepair, just as the water pipeline infrastructure was almost non-existent. It was a big issue that could not be solved overnight, and in the short-term, Governor Adeleke initiated mass sinking of boreholes to meet the people's immediate water needs. In Osun state today, there is hardly a ward out of the 332 wards that is without a motorized borehole to serve the water needs of residents. The second phase of the installation of

the reality of climate change and its impact on the people. This explains the series of efforts he has taken so far, part of which has attracted the interest of the World Bank. At the moment, the Adeleke administration is exploring innovative ways of combating the crisis in order to limit the impact on the state.

This is in addition to the ambitious climate agenda of the administration in protecting the environment from the catastrophic impact of climate change. The gains of the Adeleke administration are already bearing fruits as the National Council on Climate Change selected Osun state as a pilot site for the carbon investment project. What this means is that the Ago Owu Forest in Ayedade Local Government of the state will participate in a project aimed at supporting the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan and the Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

They can see, and even know the many beneficiaries of the Imole Surgical and Medical Outreach

332 motorized boreholes will commence shortly to deepen access to clean and drinkable water for the people of Osun state in the short term.

In the long term, the Adeleke administration is embarking on a major repair of water workstations across Osun state to make sure that homes can enjoy portable and clean water in the long run. Governor Adeleke has approved the award of an N1.3bn water contract for the rehabilitation of the Ora water work scheme, which services the Ignomina area of the state. In the second phase of the infrastructure plan, Governor Adeleke will unveil the rehabilitation of the Iwo, Ede, and Osogbo water workstations to boost access to water in the state.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Governor Adeleke is conversant with

All of these and more are what Governor Adeleke has been able to achieve in 16 months. And the good things about the achievements of Governor Adeleke in 16 months in office is that they are visible, and no matter how hard those in denial try to pretend, they cannot change the fact about their existence. They see the roads; they can see the boreholes installed in their respective councils; they can see and hear testimonies of civil servants and pensioners on Governor Adeleke clearing the mess of the past administration; they can see cables installed in their vicinity; they can see, and even know the many beneficiaries of the Imole Surgical and Medical Outreach.

In short, they can see the many impacts of Governor Adeleke in one year, although they may find it hard to say it because doing so will expose their lies over time. But what is comforting is that the Osun people, who are the true interest of Governor Adeleke, can see and feel the effect of his monumental achievements in just one year and cherish them so much. And you know what, that is actually what matters, not the wailing of chronic failures.



Distribution of bond certificate to pensioners



Distribution of bond certificate to pensioners

