



**SENATOR MONDAY
OKPEBHOLO**
(aka Akpakomiza)
FOR GOVERNOR



FIVE-POINT AGENDA

"My Five-Point Agenda is the fulcrum of my manifestoes for a practical and democratic governance in Edo state when given the mandate to lead as Governor in the 21st September, 2024 election. I have made myself available to the people of Edo state based on my conviction that I possess the integrity to take the state to a higher glory."

- Monday Okpebholo-

FORWARD

My vision as Governor of Edo state is to bring about practical governance to Edo State by being consistently available and accessible to the people to whom power belongs. On the strength of this, the APC administration under Senator Monday Okpebholo, popularly called Akpakomiza, will protect, develop, and build a new Edo state using the community-based approach to governance. The people will be involved in identifying their needs, and projects will be monitored by them to ensure service delivery.

Edo state was created out of the former Bendel State on 27th August 1991. The people are homogenous with a common ancestry linked to ancient Benin kingdom of over 2000 years old. The state occupies 19,559 sq. kilometres of land mass with an estimated population of 5 million people. Senator Okpebholo as Governor of Edo state shall protect the people, develop

mountains dotting various parts of the landscape. The location has made it vulnerable to crime and criminality on many fronts. Several hectares of farmlands have been abandoned by farmers ostensibly for fear of kidnapping, armed robbery, and other violent crimes, resulting in shortage of foods. Numerous small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have relocated out of the state, too. There is no way any meaningful development can be achieved under the current insecurity condition. Senator Monday Okpebholo's administration is determined to confront the menace headlong through partnership with communities, use of digital technology, provision of sophisticated weapons, improved welfare, and retraining of security personnel.

Out of the total of 371,000 policemen in Nigeria, Edo state enjoys less than 10,000 officers on ground at every point in time.

This figure is grossly inadequate to police over 5 million residents. Senator Okpebholo's support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's programme for State police is unalloyed, loud, and clear. With State police, Edo state can achieve the United Nation's recommended benchmark of one policeman to 450 citizens (1:450). This will provide more jobs for our teeming youths. Okpebholo's support for security development in the state, even as a private citizen, is legendary. Prior to becoming Senator, he severally donated huge sums of money to aid the security operations in the state and procured patrol vehicles to tackle the incessant kidnappings in Edo central. There is a glimmer of hope that complete normalcy will be restored to the state so that

farmers, traders, investors, and residents can sleep with their two eyes closed. The fight against insecurity in Edo state is top of the agenda for Senator Monday Okpebholo aka Akpakomiza, when he becomes Governor.

The administration will be proactive in dealing with security issues so as to secure outcomes that will act as deterrent against criminal activities. Building trust between the people and the government will, in turn, provide a peaceful and stable environment for community policing and progressive governance.

2. ROAD DEVELOPMENT

Edo state is home to only 5% of the total roads in Nigeria, which is about 10,600 kilometres with only 2,700 kilometres of them paved (tarred). This network of roads is grossly inadequate for a gateway economy with an all-time traffic flow from the eastern, western, and northern flanks of the country. Senator Okpebholo's administration will partner with the Federal Government, International Donor Agencies (FDA), and corporate organizations to rehabilitate the deplorable roads and increase the road corridors. The APC Governorship candidate demonstrated this collaborative spirit as Senator of the 10th Assembly. Edo state will be turned into a construction site in the first few years of the administration. At the heart of his administration's policy for road development is the resolve to ease traffic gridlocks through the construction of fly-overs in selected locations and construction of alternate access roads for busy road corridors. This will provide a seamless transportation system

in the state. The common man will no longer pay the price of bad roads.

At the Senate Chambers, Senator Okpebholo has serially championed the reconstruction of the very deplorable Benin-Auchi-Okene road, Ewu-Uromi-Agbor Road, erosion gully control, reticulation of pipe borne water, among others. His intervention with that of Senator Adams Oshiomhole led to the approval by the Federal Government in March 2024 to speed up the completion of the reconstruction works of the Benin-Auchi-Okene express six months. The free bus ride in Edo Central since 2022 is an indication of Okpebholo's passion for the transportation for the common man. The free bus ride is currently being extended to other parts of the state in his individual capacity. The administration will explore and harness the solid minerals deposits in Okpella and other parts of the state for road development.

To sustain the gains of road development, the administration shall ensure that roads are constantly maintained with proper drainage systems, so that the perennial flooding that has brought untold hardship to the state will be a thing of the past.

3. AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

Edo state has no fewer than 34 state government-owned hospitals and over 7,000 private health facilities. But only three of the government hospitals are functioning while 10% of the private facilities were not registered with government authorities. This ugly situation has shifted the burden of medical care into the hands of quacks and unorthodox

practitioners.

Senator Okpebholo's blueprint is to make primary healthcare available to every part of the state. The administration will expand the healthcare system for our women and children, retirees, and elderly through a workable health insurance programme. Health is only wealth when it is made affordable at the grassroots. The administration will improve on the existing poor doctor-patient ratio of 1;5,000 in Edo state and pursue meeting the World Health Organisation benchmark of 1:600. This will be achieved through an integrated health care system aimed at upgrading facilities, increasing manpower and developing a community-based health care delivery system.

4. WATER AND FOOD SUFFICIENCY

The key motivation for the administration of Senator Okpebholo is to revive portable pipe borne water through proper funding of all water projects for adequate reticulation. Provision of water to the people of Edo state will eliminate water-borne diseases and improve the health of all.

Edo state was originally known for massive rice farming. Agbede rice, Ekpoma rice, and Illushi rice have become history. These farmlands and many more will be re-activated with the introduction of modern farming technology under Senator Monday Okpebholo as Governor of Edo state. Farmers will have a new lease of life with the provision of new seedlings and fertilisers. They will be re-trained to enable them to function in modern agricultural systems.

Cooperatives and Farmers markets will be established to provide constant interface with their colleagues, customers, researchers, and members of the public.

The state will invest in silos and encourage the private sector in this direction to increase the prospects of farming in the land. Edo state is host to the Nigeria Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR) and many functional research departments in various educational centres which government will partner with, for the development of agriculture in the state. As a farmer himself, Senator Okpebholo is concerned with the local manufacture of farming tools for grassroots farmers. Produce boards and produce centres will be created across the state. There will be a revolution in the agriculture sector targeted at making more food available and providing employment opportunities for our youths. Investors will be supported to explore the various opportunities in the value chain in the agro-industry. With the abundance of pineapples, oranges, mangoes, plantain, banana, maize, cassava, etc., entrepreneurs will find Edo state a preferred location to establish factories and agro-industries under the administration of Senator Okpebholo. The quality of farming will be improved to meet industrial demand within and outside the state.

5. **VALUE-DRIVEN EDUCATION**

To meet the demand of an expanding state, the construction of more primary and secondary schools will be pursued vigorously to meet the increasing school children population. Every child in Edo state must be given basic education. As the

world transits to the age of artificial intelligence, the entire education system in the state will be re-designed to function effectively in today's world. Akpakomiza, being a frontliner in Information and Communications technology in Nigeria, will bring to bear his experiences in the world of digital technology. His administration will partner and integrate alumni associations of various schools into the development programme of the education sector. From engagements so far, many Alumni Associations are willing to partner with the government in the development of their schools. Importantly, teachers' welfare will be a top priority for the administration of schools. Constant monitoring mechanisms of schools and colleges will be introduced, and strict regulations will be put in place to restore the glory of the state in education.

Vocational training will be re-introduced across all local governments to develop entrepreneurial skills among our youths and promote the evolution of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This will greatly address unemployment challenges and reduce poverty, crime, and other social vices in the state.

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has established the Students' Loan scheme to provide succour for Nigerians. Akpakomiza believes that the students' loans system, as introduced by the federal government, is one of the strongest components of the Renewed Hope agenda for Nigerian youths. Edo state will support this effort with bursary awards and scholarships to indigent students in the state. Community schools that have been abandoned because of rough terrains will be given special attention.