The New Kogi State Under His Excellency, Gov. Yahaya Bello

Those who were familiar with Kogi State before the coming of His Excellency, Yahaya Bello always describe the state with just two indices - underdevelopment and insecurity. If you had been to Kogi before 2015, it was easy to see that the state was at the lowest ebb of all developmental indices and also a haven for virtually all criminal activities.

In view of the fact that Kogi, like many informed Nigerians would say, is a microcosm of Nigeria, also saddled with all the challenges facing the nation, it is in order to commend the efforts of previous administrations, who did what they could but were not able to change the narrative.

In the Confluence State, nature provided every infrastructure needed for its socio-economic upliftment and infrastructural development but the political will to harness these opportunities was largely lacking.

On assumption of office, Governor Bello came with a different style of governance. He assembled eggheads with unmatched competency, irrespective of tribe and religion. His first term was turbulent, marred with unprecedented litigations and a lingering political war, which broke out immediately he was sworn in. However, as a successful transformational leader, the governor motivated the workforce who have come to applaud the governor till date.

Not only that, even in the face of harsh economic realities, Governor Bello has approved the National Minimum Wage Scale for Kogi civil servants and has received tremendous commendations from the workforce.

In order to speedily realise the Kogi of everyone’s dream, he set some indelible and monumental targets for the state, revamping all sectors - Education, Health, Agriculture, Education, Security, Economy, Infrastructure, Welfare, Empowerment and Rural Development, among others.

The New Direction team of the Governor Yahaya Bello-led administration delved into diverse spheres of human endeavours, toiling day and night to ensure that no stone was left unturned in a bid to reposition Kogi State.

Within his over six years in office, GYB has established projects which are audible to the deaf and visible to the blind. He will no doubt be leaving indelible marks in the sands of time.

As Nigeria continues to battle with growing insecurity, Governor Bello has succeeded in making Kogi State relatively the safest state in the country through a solid security architecture.

In the past six years, the Yahaya Bello administration invested heavily in the health sector by building, renovating, upgrading, equipping hospitals and health care centers across the three Senatorial districts of the state.

The building of the World-Class, 300-bed Central Reference Hospital, located in Okene will no doubt reduce the rate of medical tourism in the country and serve as a Teaching Hospital to the newly established Confluence University of Science and Technology (CUSTECH), Osara.

With the revamping of the health sector under the administration, over 2,000 health workers were recruited across the state, filling the manpower gap and creating employment.

The Education Sector under the Yahaya Bello administration has also witnessed tremendous turnaround with the establishment of CUSTECH, as well as building, renovating and equipping of other institutions in the state. It is no longer news that since he assumed office, there has been no disruption of learning in Kogi’s higher institutions. When ever other students are at home during strikes, Kogi State students are safely in school. How has the Governor been able to do this? He simply prioritized education by empowering the institutions in terms of infrastructure and funding.

The establishment of CUSTECH was also aimed at addressing the inability of Kogi indigenes to study desired courses, owing to lack of admission into other institutions.

Currently, Kogi State is undoubtedly wearing a new look with many infrastructural projects and construction of roads in the state capital and across the state.

Notwithstanding, the agricultural sector has also received a lot of attention from the New Direction Administration. The World Bank applauded Governor Bello for introducing Sustainable Agriculture programmes to the state. Some of the key interventions in agriculture include: the establishment of the Ejiba Rice Mill in the Western Senatorial District of the state, and donation of mechanized farming equipment and inputs to local farmers, among others.

His rural/grassroots development, coupled with the building of infrastructures, including women and youth inclusion, are all evidenced in Kogi for local and international players to see.

Little wonder foreign investors have pegged Kogi a choice destination for investment.

The building of the State Civic Center for state functions and other ceremonial activities also puts the state on a par with other big cities of the country.

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Even with the meagre resources available to the state, Governor Bello, relying on his business acumen and background, has turned Kogi State into a reference state in the area of transparency and accountability as reflected in the World Bank's States Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability rating, in which Kogi State came second in 2017 and first in 2018 and 2019.

With these feats, in virtually all sectors, indigenes of the state have continued to pray for continuity of Yahaya Bello’s winning policies.
HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

WELL EQUIPPED 300 BED REFERENCE HOSPITAL, OKENE KOGI STATE
HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

RENOVATION & CONSTRUCTION OF SPECIALIST HOSPITAL, LOKOJA, KOGI STATE

CONSTRUCTION OF ULTRA MODERN CLINICAL COMPLEX, PRINCE ABUBAKAR AUDU UNI. TEACHING HOSPITAL, ANYIGBA, KOGI STATE
HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

RENOVATION, REMODELLING & UPGRADE OF ZONAL HOSPITAL, IDAH TO SPECIALIST HOSPITAL

CONSTRUCTION OF ULTRA MODERN GENERAL HOSPITAL, GEGU, KOGI LGA, KOTON-KARFE, KOGI STATE
ESTABLISHMENT OF CONFLUENCE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (CUSTECH)
OSARA, ADAVI LGA, KOGI STATE

CONSTRUCTION OF GYB MODEL SCIENCE SECONDARY SCHOOL,
ADANKOLO LOKOJA, KOGI STATE
CONSTRUCTION OF GRADE INTERCHANGE (FLYOVER) GANAJA JUNCTION, LOKOJA KOGI STATE
CONSTRUCTION OF CONFLUENCE RICE EJIBA, YAGBA WEST LGA, KOGI STATE
AGRICULTURE & SECURITY

PROVISION & DISTRIBUTION OF MECHANIZED FARMING EQUIPMENT

DONATION OF OPERATIONAL VEHICLES TO SECURITY AGENCIES IN KOGI STATE