

# 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 everything the state 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 and inspired government officials, pointing out to them how drastic changes would benefit the state.

He actually put out the blueprint before the transition started. As an efficient leader, he carefully assessed the situation, using his administration's blueprint as a compass in addressing the needs of every community in the state, considering alternatives and taking actions that mitigated risks while capitalising on available opportunities.

Using the democratic leadership style, Bello's first administration's policy was to ensure an effective and productive civil service sector. He embarked on a thorough screening of civil servants in the state, which generated outcry from beneficiaries of the old order, ghost workers and employment racketeers, who were the target of the exercise.

After the completion of the screening exercise in 2018, the governor gave a standing order for civil servants' salaries to be paid between 24th and 27th of every month, an order that has been maintained and commended by workers till date.

Today, Kogi has the most efficient and productive workforce who have come to applaud the governor on many occasions for his doggedness to sanitize the civil service system. Governor Bello never makes decisions without first consulting the state workforce. This has led to a high rate of employee satisfaction and boosted workforce morale. On the other hand, using the transformational leadership style, the Governor focuses on inspiring subordinates but leaves the details of decision-making to the workers themselves. By utilizing both leadership styles, depending on the situation, he has been able to maximize productivity and employee retention.

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, Empower-

ment 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. Whenever 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.

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.

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.

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



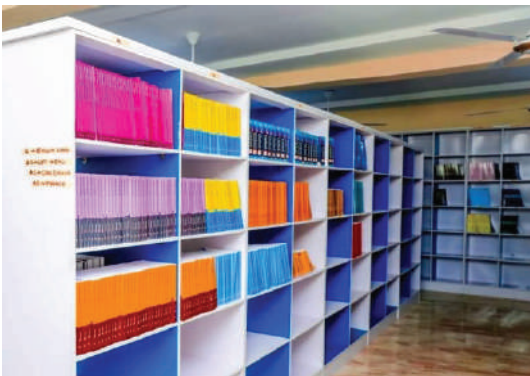
CONSTRUCTION OF ULTRA MODERN GENERAL HOSPITAL, GEGU, KOGI LGA, KOTON-KARFE, KOGI STATE



EDUCATION



ESTABLISHMENT OF CONFLUENCE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (CUSTECH)  
OSARA, ADAVI LGA, KOGI STATE



CONSTRUCTION OF GYB MODEL SCIENCE SECONDARY SCHOOL,  
ADANKOLO LOKOJA, KOGI STATE





## ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

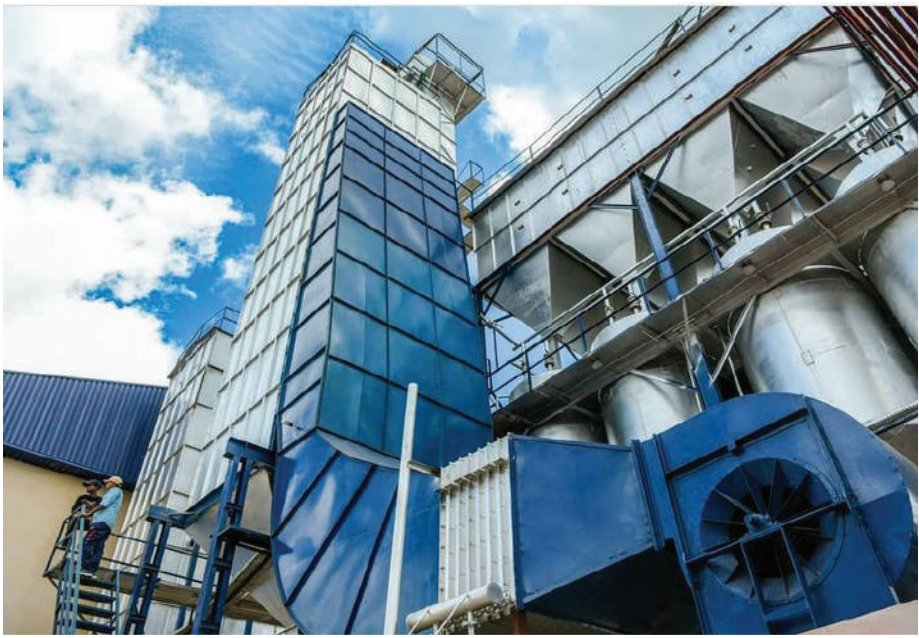


### CONSTRUCTION OF GRADE INTERCHANGE (FLYOVER) GANAJA JUNCTION, LOKOJA KOGI STATE





AGRICULTURE



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**



INFRASTRUCTURE



CONSTRUCTION OF CIVIC CENTRE, LOKOJA, KOGI STATE

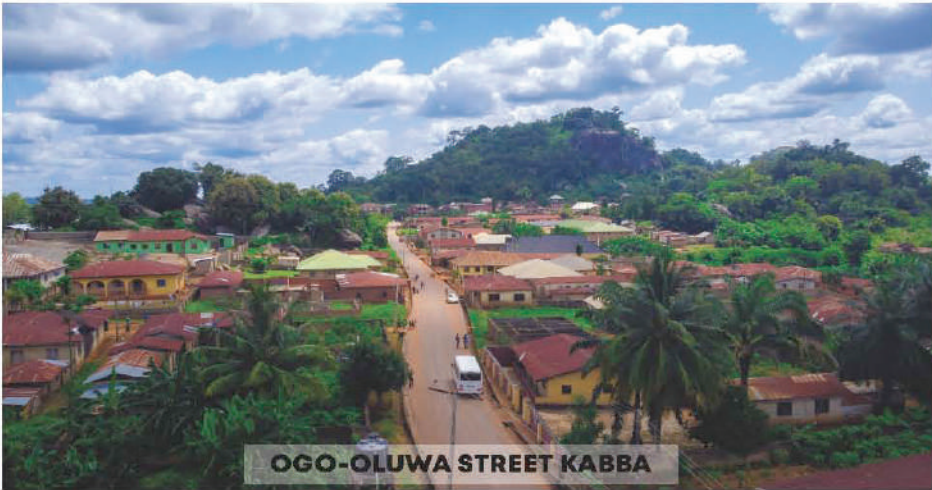


CONSTRUCTION OF REVENUE HOUSE





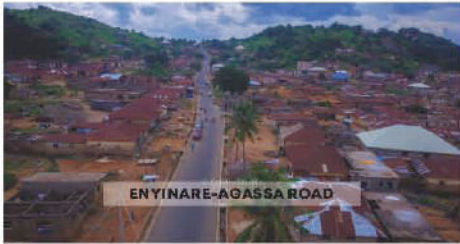
**ROADS & EROSION CONTROL**



OGO-OLUWA STREET KABBA



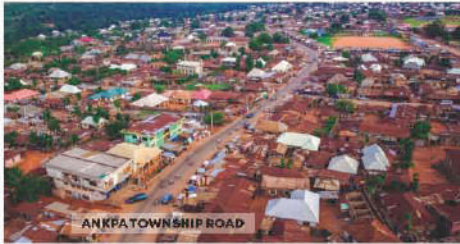
ANYIGBA-UMOMI-UGWOLAWO-AJAKA-IDAHA ROAD



ENYINARE-AGASSA ROAD



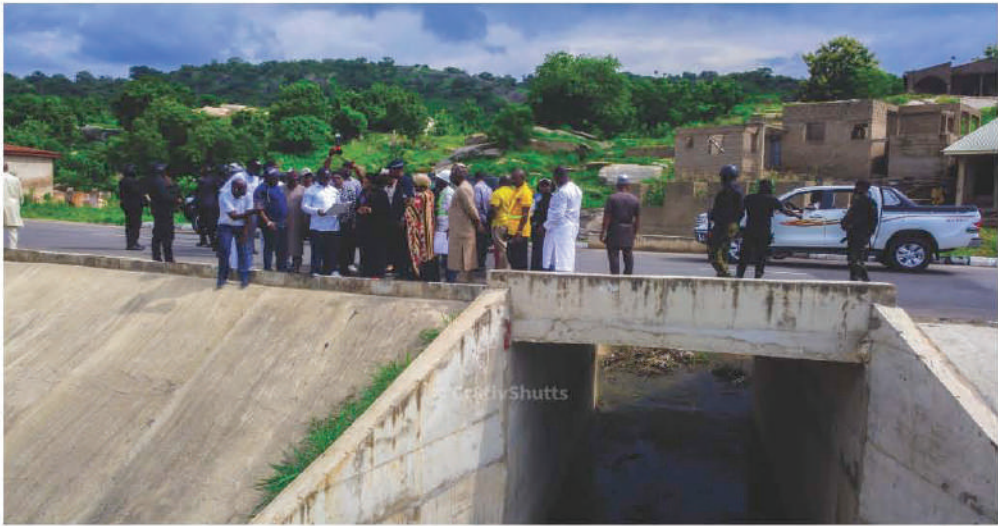
IBANA-OKPO-ETTE-OGUOJI ROAD



ANKPATOWNSHIP ROAD



OZURI-OBANGEDE ROAD



**EROSION CONTROL ACROSS THE STATE**