

**INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF BENIN DURING OSHIOMHOLE'S  
ADMINISTRATION FROM 2008 -2016**

**BY**

**CHRISTABEL OSARUMWENSE ASENOGUAN  
ART1901028**

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## **CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that this project was carried out by CHRISTABEL OSARUMWENSE ASENOGUAN with Matriculation Number of ART1901028 in the Department of History and International studies University of Benin, under my supervision.

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**Dr. Daniel Olisa Iweze**  
**Project Supervisor**

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**Dr. Frank Ikponwonsa**  
**Head of Department**

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**Date**

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**Date**

## **DEDICATION**

This project is dedicated to Almighty Jehovah for his never-ending mercies, overwhelming love, divine protection, loving kindness and his grace that has kept me from the beginning of my academic journey till this day, making all things work together in my favour to succeed.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
Title Page - - - - -	i
Certification - - - - -	ii
Dedication - - - - -	iii
Acknowledgements - - - - -	iv
Table of Contents - - - - -	v
<b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION</b> - - - - -	<b>1</b>
Background to the Study - - - - -	1
Aim and Objectives of the Study - - - - -	3
Scope of the Study - - - - -	4
Methodology - - - - -	4
Literature Review - - - - -	4
Chapterization- - - - -	16
<b>CHAPTER TWO: BRIEF HISTORY OF BENIN CITY (HISTORICAL CONTEXT)</b> - - - - -	<b>20</b>
Introduction - - - - -	20
History of the Mid-Western to Edo State - - - - -	22
Previous Administrations from the Midwest Region to Edo State before Adams Oshiomhole’s Administration- - - - -	24
<b>CHAPTER THREE: INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT DURING ADAMS OSHIOMHOLE'S ADMINISTRATION FROM 2008 TO 2016 - - - - -</b>	<b>35</b>
Introduction - - - - -	35
Economic Infrastructure - - - - -	36
Agriculture - - - - -	40

Road-Transportation -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
Market	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43
Road Construction and Maintenance -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
Social Infrastructure -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63
Educational Building -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64
Health -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66
Human Resources for Health -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67
Security	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79
Electricity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71
Water -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73
Urbanisation -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	75
Empowerment Programmes -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	76
<b>CHAPTER FOUR: THE CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT DURING OSHIOMHOLE'S ADMINISTRATION</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>83</b>
Overview of Oshiomhole's Government Achievement -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83
Challenges of Oshiomhole's Administration -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	88
<b>CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION-</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>94</b>
Bibliography -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	99

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### **Background to the Study**

Adams Oshiomhole was the governor of Edo State, Nigeria, for two terms in the past. After taking over office with the now-defunct Action Congress (AC) in 2007, he served under the auspices of the All Progressive Congress (APC). Oshiomole rose to prominence as the leader and president of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) prior to entering politics.<sup>1</sup> When the administration of Governor Adams Oshiomhole took over office in November 2008, it realized that the Board of Internal Revenue needed to be reorganized and reformed in order to maximize the government's Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) for the provision of infrastructure and other services.

This decision, which aims to institutionalize and improve tax and revenue administration while embracing the Comrade Governor's vision of a people- and results-oriented government, was a very brave and well-considered step.<sup>2</sup> Since all other facets of growth have been put on hold, the comrade governor Oshiomhole's plan for infrastructure development has taken a different direction. This is because it is the exclusive goal of their government. In contrast to sports, social welfare, and security, the health sector is in a vegetative state, agriculture is in decline, and industry is not given attention. Nobody is fighting over these mistakes because everyone has the right to set

their own priorities. However, arguments can arise if projects are prioritized yet lack cost-effective quality.<sup>3</sup>

The much-discussed highways are the first cause for alarm during comrade governor Oshiomhole. The administration has referred to its accomplishments in building roads as its "Magnus opus." The accomplishment reports are skillfully delivered without providing all the details. The public has never been informed of the number of kilometers of completed roads or the length of the corresponding drainage systems.<sup>4</sup> It is feasible to complete 1,000 roads measuring 100 kilometers, as well as 100 roads measuring 1,000 kilometers. The one who has completed 1,000 roads appears to have accomplished something that Napoleon was unable to, while the person who has completed 100 roads is likely considered a trailblazer.<sup>5</sup> But an appropriate assessment and appraisal become simple when the number of roads is compared side by side with the length in kilometers.

As a result, O.O. Ikelegbe and D.A. Edokpa found that infrastructures are important indicators of development as well as quality of life and have the ability to promote endogenous growth,<sup>6</sup> prevent rural-urban migration, stimulate economic activity, and raise living standards in Edo State's rural areas. It is clear that, many parts of Benin City, the capital of Edo State, have deplorable infrastructure currently, and urgent infrastructural provision and upkeep are needed to stop the eventual consequences on quality of life of the citizens. It is clear that emerging nations have quite different levels

of rural infrastructure.<sup>7</sup> In Nigeria, for example, towns in Edo State, including Benin City, the state capital, have acute shortages in this area of sustainable infrastructures. Furthermore, it is clear that infrastructures are important markers of a community's quality of life. It's against this background, that this study fills the gap in the literature, by assessing the infrastructural development during Oshiomhole's Administration in Benin City from 2008 -2016.

### **Aim and Objectives of the Study**

The focus of this study is to examine infrastructural development of Benin City during Oshiomholes administration in Edo State from 2008 -2016. In order to analyse the main aim of the study the following objectives are enumerated:

- 1) To examine brief History of Edo State since Inception
- 2) To evaluate the chronological history of past Edo Governors Administration
- 3) To assess the infrastructural development during Oshiomhole 's administration from 2008 to 2016
- 4) To explore the economic impact of infrastructural development
- 5) To identify the challenges of infrastructural development during Oshiomhole's administration

## **Scope of the Study**

This study focuses on the infrastructural development of Benin City during Oshiomhole's administration in Benin City from 2008 -2016. This study evaluates the various structure of infrastructural development during the past administration.

## **Methodology**

The study will be conducted using historical approach. Two primary sources will provide pertinent data and information needed to complete this project. Both primary and secondary sources will be among them. In order to separate out historical facts, the researcher will critically evaluate, interpret, and cross-examine the resources. The qualitative approach of data analysis will form the basis of the study. However, the statistical method of data analysis and presentation will be used in the research as needed.

## **Primary Sources**

This research will base its facts findings on primary sources which include oral interviews and Newspapers. Information of personal interviews will be employed, and discussions on the infrastructural development in Edo State, using Benin City perspective.

## **Literature Review**

A. Edosomwan's article titled: "Art and Culture Administration: The Edo State Experience",<sup>8</sup> establish that, Oshiomhole's infrastructural connection with the State's political system began to change as a result of this process; it moved away from more

conventional patron-based collective bargaining and toward a popular, constituency-based style of politics that is less common in Nigeria. The governor was undoubtedly conscious of the necessity to act swiftly, to convey to this expanding support base that a new administration would live up to its promises, and to strike a balance between social responsibility pledges made during the campaign and a new system of accountability based on performance. It would not be simple to do this. High rates of youth unemployment severely damaged public infrastructure and services, and a history of violence and conflict beset Edo State. Just \$327 per person was earned, which is around 25% of the national average. This literature has a direct relevance in that it connects Oshiomhole's infrastructural development to aid smooth sociopolitical culture of the people without evaluating Benin City.

P. Okhiria, in his article titled: "Politics: In Edo, it's 730 Days of Action, Action",<sup>9</sup> explain that perhaps other states and other country teams can learn something from Edo's story. It is not a story of a reform-minded governor finally being immobilized by political unrest, held captive by a disjointed, incompetent government, or frustrated by the difficulties involved in creating and implementing humanitarian initiatives. It's a convoluted tale, but one that sheds light on how Nigerian performance might be enhanced by some reforming leadership models. In fact, the Governor was re-elected to a second term in 2012 thanks to a larger majority in what was widely seen to be a free and fair

election. Many people believe that Oshiomhole's capacity to provide observable results—particularly his efforts to increase capital spending, particularly around roads and civic infrastructure, classrooms, and clinics—was a major factor in his election victory in 2012. According to reports, yearly road investment tripled during the first year of the Oshiomhole's administration and then quadrupled again three years later, reaching over NGN40.86 billion in 2012. This study reviews Oshiomhole's political administration and capacity but does not really analyse the issue regarding infrastructure, it is relevant as it gives clue to the present study.

G. Okiyi, in a book titled, *Who is Afraid of Adams Oshiomhole*<sup>10</sup>, posits that when comrade Governor Adam Aliu Oshiomhole assumed office in 2008, a great deal has been done regarding the infrastructure development in Edo state. According to the author, it's evident that infrastructure ought to be brought up again because it is so important to the welfare of the populace and because it serves as the pivot around which economic progress revolves. Since all other facets of growth have been put on hold, the comrade governors' plan for infrastructure development has taken a different direction. This is because it is the exclusive goal of their government. In contrast to sports, social welfare, and security, the health sector is in a vegetative state, agriculture is in decline, and industry is not given attention. Nobody is fighting over these mistakes because everyone has the right to set their own priorities. However, arguments can arise if projects are

prioritized yet lack cost-effective quality. This book is relevant to the present study because it appraises comrade Governor Adam Aliu Oshiomhole administration but does not concentrate on Benin City.

P, Omoruyi's article "Opinion: How Adams Oshiomhole Developed Benin City into a Multi-Billion Whited Sepulcher",<sup>11</sup> states that the situation in the schools under Governor Adam Aliu Oshiomhole is even more appalling because, despite the politicization of everything else, education for our children should never be politicized. As things stand right now, these schools are already failing. The Oshiomhole administration painted and restored all the schools instead of constructing new ones. No one disputes this, but everyone now disputes that the schools are falling into disrepair once more, with broken doors, windows, and leaking roofs. It appears that the renovations were done mostly for political reasons rather than for long-term viability. However, Oshiomhole did not reveal the true cost of renovating the schools and was not fully disclosed, much like the roads, leaving the residents of Edo to conjecture about how much of their resources have seemingly been thrown away. This literature is very relevant as it evaluates school infrastructures but not in general terms of infrastructures in Benin City.

D.J. Porter., et al., in a journal titled: "*Infrastructure Development in Edo State*",<sup>12</sup> the authors buttress that governor Adams Oshiomhole assumed office in November 2008

following a successful court appeal to retrieve the mandate given to him by the people of Edo. Widespread support from a variety of interest groups buttressed the legal challenge and helped create the political space for the Governor's pursuit of an agenda focused on both reform and speedy delivery. Popular demand for reform was evident, but responding to this presented major challenges. Their study is an attempt to better understand the process through which the Administration was able to maximize its delivery. To the authors, rather than holding these practices up to international standards, and highlighting deficits and shortcomings in relation to those standards, the study purpose was to depict how the State administration had responded to the political priorities of the new Governor by adapting to the constraints it faced and creating new ways to deliver through infrastructure spending. This case study underlines the very rich and often messy reality that leaders frequently find when assuming office and the trade-offs that they are forced to make. In doing so, it reminds us of the political realities within which we work and, like other case studies recently undertaken to inform Bank engagements in Nigeria, finds that traditional blue print approaches in such circumstances are unlikely to work and that sequencing, tailoring to local contexts and adaptation along a non-linear road to reform is more feasible path. This literature is relevant to this study because it explores the impact of infrastructure development in Edo State, but not in Benin City

O.D. Tambari, in journal titled: “*The Dramaturgy of War in Godswill Okiyi’s Who is Afraid of Adams Oshiomhole*”,<sup>13</sup> avers that, Oshiomhole on his elections embarked on and implemented an ambitious, highly successful statewide program of road construction and repair in Edo. Why might a newly elected governor, inheriting a particular set of political legacies and challenges in a volatile and contested oil-producing region, bet his immediate and longer-term prospects on an unprecedented road construction program. In our view, it is worth reflecting on what we will call the “institutional political economy” of roads in the Edo case. Understanding why executive priority was granted to this sector and not others will help to explain how the fiscal, political, and technical capabilities were created to pursue this priority and assets were delivered such that Oshiomhole was able to gain resounding support for his second mandate through the polls in 2012. This review is also significant because it dwells on institutional political economy of roads but it does not expatiate on infrastructures in Benin City.

D. Omoruan, in a journal titled: “*Vicissitudes of Edo State Council for Arts and Culture Performing Troupe (1996-2016)*”.<sup>14</sup> The author made the argument that, starting in the middle of the 1990s, a series of governments has repressed innovation and performance in the ESCFAACPT by being careless and uninterested. Due to this, the company is no longer able to adapt to current methods of managing, performing, and

administering the arts and culture—a skill that is essential to its continued existence and prosperity in modern theater. Given his background as the president of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and his shared constituency with the government workers, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole's appointment as governor of Edo State was a positive development. Ever since the inaugural Abuja Carnival took place in 2005, Edo State has always appeared in the following ones. The governor had insufficient time when Adams Oshiomhole took office in November 2008 to emphasize the state's participation in the October and December National Festival of Arts and Culture and Abuja Carnival, respectively. After receiving no approval, the group, which had been practicing sporadically in anticipation, halted all operations. This study is not a direct review of Infrastructural development, but is relevant as it serves as guide to Oshiomole's administration in Edo State.

In the article titled: "Food Systems for Healthier Diets: A Review of Literature on Transport, Storage, and Trade in Nigeria's Supply Chain," J. C. Odozi<sup>15</sup> elucidates how government neglect can increase road construction costs, and ecological issues lead to a transport supply gap for inland, railroads, and roads. The government's response to the deplorable condition of the infrastructure includes the Port Reform Program, the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), which was established in 2002, and the Ministry of Works' building of new roads and renovation of old ones has decline in their

operations. To maximize the advantages of the new infrastructure works for distribution of agricultural produce from the farm to the final consumers, it is crucial to understand how food transportation and distance traveled are being impacted by the government's response and new infrastructure investments. For instance, the administration of Comrade Adams Oshiomhole in Edo State, Nigeria, started with massive road construction project, especially in the rural parts of Edo state. If government can continually embark on infrastructural development, it is yet unknown how these actions would impact the food environment and result in healthier diets. This study is very important to the present study because analyses road maintenance as an infrastructural development.

In an article: "Tension Heightens in Edo as AC-PDP Battle for Supremacy," S. Ebegbulem<sup>16</sup> notes that Oshiomhole formed a cabinet with members from other political parties in an effort to shape progress in Edo State. It was also said that Oshiomhole asked Chief Tony Anenih, the PDP leader at the time, for two commissioners and a special adviser. There was a tenuous truce between PDP and CAN following the ruling of the appeals court because PDP did not voice any significant protest. The two powerful leaders of the major parties were actually a father and son relationship, and Anenih is remembered as urging the people of the state to back Oshiomhole's government because the governor was doing great job in infrastructural development. Oshiomhole responded by referring to Anenih as his father and said that even though they are not in the same

political party, he will always respect Anenih as a leader. This study is significant to present this study because it analyses that Oshiomhole's government is good in infrastructural development.

In the article: "Basic Infrastructure Provision and its Impact on People's Experiences of Housing Quality in Benin City, Nigeria," U. Ezeanah<sup>17</sup> maintains that access to basic utilities like electricity, water, and reliable transportation was a major issue in not only all of Benin City's neighborhoods but also throughout the entirety of Nigeria. In terms of their lived experiences and their conceptions of a quality home, the inconsistent nature of the electricity supply, restricted access to water supplies, and the extremely poor transport network (e.g., poor roads, houses close to main roads in all the neighborhoods except GRA) provide for needed infrastructures. Consequently, there is huge reliance on infrastructure provided through private mechanisms such as sinking of bore-hole, buying of water from private vendors, or from neighbours, use of generators or rechargeable lamps and candles which are all cost intensive for most people that lived in many part of Benin City. The prominence of an inconsistent electricity supply and poor quality of roads impacted on their lived experiences within these houses with differing outcomes in the diverse neighbourhoods. This challenge is predicated on the government's inability to provide water, constant electricity supply and efficient and good transport infrastructure for her citizens in Benin City. Similarly, the above review is

relevant to this study, because it opines that basic infrastructure provision impacts on people, but it does not evaluate the overall infrastructural development in Benin City.

C.O. Emokaro and D.E. Oyoboh, in their journal titled: “Impact of Rural Infrastructure on the Livelihood of Smallholders in Agrarian Communities in Edo state, Nigeria”,<sup>18</sup> states that the majority of Edo State farming population roughly 70% is made up of smallholders with total farm holdings of less than five hectares. They grow the majority of the country's food crops, helping to reduce poverty and provide food security. Despite their enormous contribution, they still have to deal with the problems caused by poor agricultural infrastructure, which is crucial for maximum productivity. Therefore, it is necessary to enhance these rural impoverished people, who are primarily from agricultural backgrounds. This study assessed the contribution of the Edo State Government Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) Community Driven Development (CDD) strategy to the overall development goal of expanding impoverished people's access to rural infrastructure in a sustainable manner. According to the authors, this strategy worked very well to increase the rural poor's access to better infrastructure in a sustainable manner. According to the author cost-efficiency analysis, CSDP Micro Projects outperformed traditional State, LGA, and NDDC Micro Projects in terms of performance. When rural residents had access to basic healthcare facilities, electricity, and clean water, their ability to make ends meet, as well as their general health and

cleanliness, all improved noticeably. In locations where socio-economic programs were implemented, communities that received improved social activities and educational facilities also saw an increase in the number of enrolled students. This study is pertinent to the present study because it provides evidence on the impact of rural infrastructure on the livelihood of the people, but it does not concentrate in Benin City.

O. M. Oisasoje and O. S. Aidelunuoghene, in their work titled: “The Role of Public Infrastructure in Poverty Reduction in the Rural Areas of Edo State, Nigeria”,<sup>19</sup> states the significant contributions to the reduction of rural poverty, the study area's infrastructure development and provision are not without issues. The insufficiency, unequal distribution, poor maintenance, inaccessibility and government attitude toward infrastructure investment are some of the issues confronting many communities in Edo State. However, the area of inadequate infrastructure development was caused by neglect, inadequate maintenance, and the attitude of the government administration. The author claims that the people living in the local government region thinks the roads, post offices, or police station were suitable examples of infrastructure development. Additionally, the author disclosed that the majority of the roads in the researched area are not tarred, making them impassable during the rainy season when potholes and gullies appear. Because of this, there aren't many commercial motor vehicles that travel on these routes for fear of collisions and car damage. Motorbikes have provided an alternate mode of

transportation on these routes, but they also come with a number of drawbacks, such as high costs and a high accident rate. However, because many people have been deterred from entering the transportation industry by the state of the roads, there are now fewer job opportunities in the transportation sector in the area. The cost and ease of transportation have also been impacted by the state of these roads. This literature is relevant to this work because it emphasis on impact of inadequate infrastructure to the development of the society, but did not concentrate in Benin City.

A review of the above relevant literature has shown that they focus on other area of Oshiomole's administration in Edo State, while his strides in infrastructural development in Benin City, and has not been studied by scholars. It is in view of this gap in the knowledge that this study intends to investigate the infrastructural development during Adams Oshiomole's administration in Benin City, the State capital, which has been neglected by scholar

## **Chapterization**

### **Chapter One: Background to the Study**

This chapter highlights major issues regarding infrastructural development of Benin City during Oshiomholes administration in Edo State from 2008 -2016. The chapter is subdivided into background of the study, aim and objectives of the study, scope of the study, methodology, literature review and chapters outline.

### **Chapter Two: Brief History of Edo State since Inception and Chronology of Past Edo Governors.**

This chapter entails analysis of brief history of Edo State since inception and chronology of past Edo governors.

### **Chapter Three: Infrastructural Development during Oshiomhole's administration from 2008 to 2016.**

This chapter analysis infrastructural development during Oshiomhole's administration from 2008 to 2016 and the economic impact of infrastructural development.

### **Chapter Four: The challenges, impacts and success/ achievements of infrastructural development during Oshiomhole's administration.**

This chapter deals with the identification of challenges of infrastructural development during Oshiomhole's administration.

## **Chapter Five: Conclusion**

As the concluding chapter it summarizes the major issues regarding infrastructural development of Benin City during Oshiomholes administration in Edo State from 2008 - 2016. The chapter will try to merge all the information raised in the previous chapters,

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## CHAPTER TWO

### A BRIEF HISTORY BENIN CITY (HISTORICAL CONTEXT)

#### **Introduction**

The land now known as Edo state with Benin City as its capital has a long history of civilization. Historians and researchers trace its existence to as far back as prehistoric time. As a well-organized unified-community, under a very formidable monarchical authority called Ogois. With a verbal government machinery representing legislative, executive and judiciary, with some form of checks and balances more or democratic in form, with the people called Igodomigodo Benins, Edo as its inhabitants.<sup>1</sup>

Benin was the capital city of the ancient Benin Kingdom, reputed to be one of the oldest and prominent kingdoms in West Africa. It is one of the oldest cities in Nigeria that owed its prominence as an important centre of arts and crafts, especially in bronze casting and other artistic works for centuries. Benin was the capital and seat of the Oba, the king of the ancient Benin Kingdom, one of the most powerful kingdoms in West Africa. The city was a major traditional urban centre in pre-colonial West Africa and has since retained its heritage as a political and economic hub in the sub-region.<sup>2</sup> Benin is an ancient city and a melting pot with peoples of diverse origins and cultures that dates back to the twelfth century which enriched its cosmopolitan outlook and rich cultural heritage. It is the political and economic hub inhabited by predominantly indigenous Bini people, who



## **History of the Mid-West Region to Edo State**

Dominated by the Edo ethnic-linguistic group. Benin and Delta [Bendel] people sharing a common origin, cultures, religious worships, and ancestors traceable to the ancient Benin Empire. This historical ties and discovery of a common roots and identity was transformed into a political consciousness this Consciousness was crystallized into geo-political umbrella movement, a powerful lobby group head by the late Oba Akenzua II which lobby vigorously for the creation of a separate region for Benin and Delta people [Bendel].<sup>4</sup> This ideal of a separate region did not find favour with the western regional government. After much political and constitutional debate a referendum was eventually held on July 27, 1963. The result was massive and overwhelmingly 87% of the qualified voters back a separate region for the Benin and Delta people. 29% more than the statutory minimum. The Midwestern region act of 1962 was subsequently brought into force on August 9, 1963 and a new region called Midwestern region was born and legally came into existence. With Benin City as it capital, it Form the fourth region of Nigeria. Dennis Osadebey was appointed administrator on August 9, 1963 and he eventually became the first premier in February 1964.<sup>5</sup>

The 1992 gubernatorial election, pitting John Odigie Oyegun (the SDP candidate) against Lucky Igbinedion (theNRC candidate) was annulled on 4 February of that year by the electoral tribunal. Among Igbinedion's claims were that the Oba of Benin and one of his

chiefs, Nosakhare Isekhure, unfairly supported Oyegun. Oyegun's victory was upheld on 18 March 1992.

On 20 March 2008, an election tribunal nullified the election of Oserheimen Osunbor People's Democratic Party,(PDP) and declared erstwhile labour leader Comrade Adams Oshiomhole of the Action Congress as the winner. The decision was based on several voting irregularities. Oshiomhole was voted for a second term in 2012.<sup>6</sup>

When Nigeria was further restructured, from four regions to 12 states On May 27, 1967, Midwestern region was change to Midwestern state but retained its original geographical boundaries. On February 3, 1976 when Murtala Muhammad regime further subdivided Nigeria's states from 12 states to 19 states Midwestern state was change to Bendel state with some little adjustment in the geographical boundaries, minor cession of some riverine area to Rivers state .On August 27, 1991, two states were created out of Bendel state Edo state was one of them retaining Benin City was it capital in continuation of Midwestern region historical perspectives. Edo State was formed on 27 August 1991 when Bendel State was split into Edo and Delta State.<sup>7</sup>

## **Previous Administrations from the Midwest Region to Edo State before Adams Oshiomhole's Administration**

Before the emergence of Adams Oshiomhole's Administration, there have been several governors or minister who governs the mid-western region which later becomes Bendel State which was split into Delta and Edo State.

### **Past Governors of Edo State**

#### **Jereton Marierie Administration**

Arising from the heat generated by ethnic and regional initiatives, Midwest Region was created in 1964 with Jereton Marierie as its first governor. He ruled from 1964 to 1966. In 1935 Mariere was elected secretary-general of the Urhobo Progressive Union, an association created in 1931 to articulate and chart a direction for the Urhobo people. He was subsequently created a traditional chieftain by them, becoming the Olorogun of Evwreni in 1953. He was elected a member of the Nigerian House of Representatives for the Urhobo East and later Central district.[citation needed] Mariere was a leader of the agitation for creation of a new region out of the old Western Region, which was dominated by the Yoruba.<sup>8</sup> The Mid-Western Region was created in 1963 after a plebiscite in which all the Urhobo divisions voted unanimously in favor, and Mariere was later appointed the first governor. Following this he was given two other aristocratic titles, that of the Onisogene of Aboh in 1964 and that of the Ogifueze of Agbor in 1965.

## **Lieutenant Colonel David Ejoor**

The first military coup that took place in 1966 brought Lieutenant Colonel David Ejoor as military governor. One of the pioneer officers and finest gentlemen ever to be produced by the Nigeria Army, Major-General David Akpode Ejoor (OFR, GCON) who answered the final summons of humanity on 10th of February 2019 at the ripe age of 87 years will be buried today. Although he was a soldier in the finest military and cultural traditions, Ejoor was indeed a man of peace who carved a niche for himself as a man of sound counsel and native wisdom in the history of Nigeria. He lived the rest of his life virtually out of public glare though he quietly and discreetly intervened on issues of national importance. Indeed he lived a Spartan life reminiscent of officers in the best military tradition, which sadly has been jettisoned by most retired military officers. His military career abruptly came to an end in July 1975 when he was retired by the Murtala/Obasanjo administration. Throughout his career there was no financial scandal linked to his name. In other words, he was not a soldier of fortune as became the generals who took over the mantle of leading the country.<sup>9</sup>

Ejoor played a stabilizing role in the ethnic politics of his native ancestral home, the Urhobo nation when he was widely elected as President General of the Urhobo Progress Union (UPU), the apex organization of the Urhobo people. Ejoor wrote some books as part of his attempt to document history as seen from his experiences. For example, in

Reminiscences, he gives an account of the civil war without unduly ascribing prowess and success to himself as some others have done. Tributes have come from different quarters. Ejoor will be long remembered and honoured as a man of positive character and vision, who provided profound inspiration to countless military officers and Nigerians that came in close contact with him. Ejoor, had an illustrious military career and served the nation with all his heart; with dedication and commitment to duty. His contributions to the end of the Nigeria Civil War remain indelible in the minds of Nigerians.

He was succeeded by Major Albert Okonkwo in August 1967. Okonkwo was a medical doctor and was the commanding officer of the Nigerian Armed Forces Medical Service in Benin right before the Civil War. At the onset of the war, he became one of the top ranked rebel commanders in the Mid-West region that later became briefly known as Republic of Benin by rebel leaders. Okonkwo was a medical doctor and was the commanding officer of the Nigerian Armed Forces Medical Service in Benin right before the Civil War. At the onset of the war, he became one of the top ranked rebel commanders in the Mid-West region that later became briefly known as Republic of Benin by rebel leaders.<sup>10</sup>

### **Colonel Samuel Osaigbovo Ogbemudia**

Colonel Samuel Osaigbovo Ogbemudia took over, between 1964 and 1972, the Arts Council was not in existence, and so nothing significant can be attributed to the first three

governors of the newly created region. Colonel Ogbemudia,<sup>3</sup> who was appointed the military Governor of the region at the outbreak of the Nigerian civil war, stirred the State through the war period and the next five years after the war which was designated as a period of reconciliation and reconstruction. The governor embarked on large-scale infrastructural development of roads, hospitals, electricity, pipe-borne water, schools, colleges and establishment of a virile civil service.

The only notable exception is perhaps the establishment of the University of Benin by Lt. Col Samuel Osaigbovo. Ogbemudia who was military governor of the then Midwest state. That was when it was fashionable for military officers to be assigned to their own states as governors. Subsequently, they were told to see their assignment as military postings. From that time on, either due to lack of any genuine interest in the development of the areas in which they were posted as "Colonial Masters" or the uncertainty of their tenures, the soldiers did not establish state universities.<sup>11</sup> Worse still, the ones the civilian administrations founded were poorly funded, neglected, and sometimes rationalised. The Ambrose Alli University was a major victim of military rule's disdain for or neglect of the University of Benin was established as part of these initiatives. The construction of universities, which peaked, with the self-sustenance policy of Group Captain Adamu Iyam by which even salaries were paid from internally generated revenues. Oba Akenzua II Cultural Centre was conceived in a bid to boost social and cultural activities in the state.

The centre was to house the newly established arts council and be under the supervision of the University of Benin.

### **Colonel George Agbazika Innih**

The periods of Colonel George Agbazika Innih (July 1975-March 1976); when the state was renamed Bendel State; Commodore Husseni Abdulahi (March 1976-July 1978) Abubakr Waziri (July 1978-October 1979) witnessed great inputs in terms of finance and manpower allocation to the then newly established ESAC. With this support, the troupe's dancers, actors and actresses played lead roles in the events of the 2nd World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC) held in Lagos in 1977 and other important activities the years after. In the play entitled Langbodo by Wale Ogunyemi, staged by Nigeria as its major entry for the drama competition in FESTAC, Bendel State produced nine actors and actresses in a total cast of twenty-one with spoken roles. They were Matt Imerion, Ben Okoeguale, Ogie Odia, Sam Loco Efe, Ifoghale Amata, Helen Aghedo, Emmanuel Oni, David Oteri and Omo Elegon.<sup>12</sup>

### **Ambrose Folorunso Alli**

There were, however, three civilian governments between these military governors. They were Professor Ambrose Folorunso Alli, October, 1979-October, 1983, Ambrose Alli was a member of the constituent assembly that drafted the 1978 Nigeria constitution. He joined the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) and ran successfully as UPN

candidate in the Bendel State governorship election of 1979. He brought massive development to Bendel in different sectors, from the establishment of numerous post-primary schools and tertiary institutions, and massive construction of roads and housing. His main thrust as governor was to increase educational opportunities.<sup>14</sup> He established over 600 new secondary schools, and abolished secondary school fees.

Apart from the establishment of the University, he also established various colleges of Education in Ekiadolor near Benin City, Agbor, Warri, Ozoro and Agbor, and three Polytechnics, with a college of agriculture and fishery proposed for Agenebode. He also established four teachers training colleges to supply staff to the new schools, as well as several other higher educational institutions. In 1981 he laid the foundation of the Bendel State University, which is now named the Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma. Other reforms included abolishing charges for services and drugs at state-owned hospitals and eliminating the flat-rate tax. His administration carried out massive construction of roads to open up the rural areas. In the housing sector, he built low cost housing estates in Ugbowo, Ikpoba Hill in Benin City, and Bendel Estates in Warri. As Governor, he always wore sandals, joking that he was so busy working in Government House that he never had time to buy shoes for himself.

### **Navy Captain Onyearegbulem**

Navy Captain Onyearegbulem repealed the self-sustenance policy imposed on some sectors of the civil service, including the ESAC, and paid initial salary arrears of six months to the affected workers. His presence in government brought relief to the ESCFAACPT members and the troupe was once again repositioned for performances. He served for only ten months as governor before the transition to civil rule on May 1999 following the demise of General Sani Abacha, the year before and the coming into power of General Abdusalam Abubakir.<sup>15</sup>

### **Chief Lucky Igbinedion Governor**

He and his deputy, Mike Oghiadomhe, held office from 29 May 1999 to 29 May 2007. During the period of his governorship, he established the Edo State Polytechnic Usen and was elected by his colleagues as Chairman of the Nigerian Governors' Forum (NGF). Igbinedion was elected governor of Edo State in April 1999 Edo State gubernatorial election under PDP and was reelected in 2003. He and his deputy, Mike Oghiadomhe, held office from 29 May 1999 to 29 May 2007.<sup>16</sup>

During the period of his governorship, he established the Edo State Polytechnic Usen and was elected by his colleagues as Chairman of the Nigerian Governors' Forum (NGF). This time round Lucky did not take things for granted as he went about the entire state canvassing for support and votes for the people of Edo state. When the dust finally settled

Lucky Nos Igbinedion overwhelmingly won the governorship election. His campaign organizations was code named “Reality 1999” with personalities such as Dr John Ebima Ogbeida and Hon Victor Edos Ebomoyi, serving as the Director of Campaign and Campaign Manager respectively. The dream he could not actualize in 1991 became a reality eight years later.

Two years in the saddle as the Chief of Edo State he, had virtually turned the state around and put it in a sound footing to the extent that Edo State was voted the most industrialized state in 2001 by an assessment team headed by the then Minister of information Professor Jerry Gana. This new found status of the state was a sharp departure from the popularly held view that Edo State was a civil service state.

### **Professor Oserheimen Osunbor as Governor**

Oserheimen Osunbor (born 5 October 1951) is a Nigerian lawyer and politician who served as the governor of Edo State from 2007 to 2008. He served as the senator representing the Edo Central senatorial district from the start of the fourth republic in 1999 to 2007. Osunbor was elected governor of Edo State in April 2007 on the People’s Democratic Party (PDP) platform.<sup>17</sup> On 20 March 2008, the Edo State Governorship Election Tribunal declared that Osunbor's election was invalid, and asked the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to withdraw his certificate and declare Adams Oshiomhole of the Action Congress (AC) party the winner.

The Osunbor Administration pursued, with vigour, the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the bad roads in the state. The dismal and disused state of the roads in Edo State (especially the ones in the Benin metropolis) at the time the Osunbor Administration came on stream on May 29, 2007, would have scared any chicken-hearted “leader”. On December 3, 2007, Senator Oserheimen Osunbor, the then Executive Governor of Edo State, presented cheques amounting to N2.4 billion (representing 25 percent mobilisation fees) to 14 contractors for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and maintenance of 28 roads in Benin City and other areas of Edo State. In the first phase, a total sum of N9.7 billion was expended to restore the 28 roads to a motorable state, thereby jump-starting the hitherto comatose social and economic activities in the affected areas.<sup>17</sup> Before this period, the Osunbor Administration devised a short-term interventionist strategy to maintain some of the worst-affected ones within Benin City as the rainy season were still on. On 11th November 2008, a federal Appeal Court sitting in Benin City upheld the ruling of the state's elections petitions tribunal, declaring Oshiomole to be the governor of Edo State. The decision was based on several voting irregularities.

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## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT DURING ADAMS OSHIOMHOLE'S ADMINISTRATION FROM 2008 TO 2016**

#### **Introduction**

To reiterate again, Governor Adams Oshiomhole assumed office in November 2008 following a successful court appeal to retrieve the mandate given to him by the people of Edo. Widespread support from a variety of interest groups buttressed the legal challenge and helped create the political space for the Governor's pursuit of an agenda focused on both reform and speedy delivery. Popular demand for reform was evident, but responding to this presented major challenges.<sup>1</sup>

Historically, Edo had been one of the best performing states in the country. Expectations were high that he would restore this status and address the perceived poor performance and allegations of corruption leveled against previous administrations. This process saw a shift begin in the nature of Oshiomhole's relationship with the State's polity - a shift from more traditional patron-based collective bargaining towards a kind of popular, constituency-based politics that is less familiar in Nigeria. The Governor was no doubt aware of the imperative to respond decisively, to send credible signals that a new regime would deliver to this growing support base and the need to balance commitments to 'good governance' with a new form of social accountability that was based on results and delivery of campaign commitments. This would not be easy. Edo State was plagued by

very high youth unemployment, devastated public assets and services, and the legacy of violence and conflict.<sup>2</sup>

### **Economic Infrastructure**

The issues of the economy are a work in progress. There is no quick fix. The government inherited a terrible economic situation. The government inherited an economy in which our total national revenue was barely enough to service our debt burden, spending 96%, which is to say every N100k Nigerian earns, 96k is going to repay debts, to service debt. So, you have only 4k left to pay all the salaries. So, nothing can be worse<sup>3</sup>.

“But they came determined that they will have to do business unusual; to arrest the drift; stabilize the economy and then begin to move forward. Some painful decisions are necessary. Already, the executive, the president, and vice president; they’ve shown courage in terms of the decisions they have taken, a radical movement away from one in which if you are well connected, you could make billions without adding value to one in which if you want to make money, you have to work. “We move away from a situation where CBN can favour you, and you become a billionaire, of which they can pauperize you, and your business collapses. “Yes, it has created its own challenges, but I don’t know of any drug without side effects. Doctors will always tell you that every drug might cure your ailment, but it will have a side effect. So, in taking it, you have to do a cost and benefit analysis. “On the whole, I believe that the broad economic, specific

macroeconomic policies that have been put in place so far, both in terms of monetary policies and in terms of fiscal policies, is the best way to start.<sup>4</sup>

The higher consideration given by the state government to capital expenditure follows the outstanding growth the Edo economy has recorded in the last seven years which saw its state gross domestic product grow by 140 percent from \$10.6 billion in 2016 to \$25.8 billion in 2023, indicating that in terms of GDP, Edo State would have been the 20th biggest country in Africa if it were to be a country, as its GDP will be bigger than 35 countries on the continent including Sudan, Guinea, Mozambique, Benin Republic, Mali, Burkina Faso, among others.

According to the breakdown of the budget, ICT infrastructure and Benin Ports projects will be funded to the tune of N85 billion, transport infrastructure will get N62 billion, just as buildings, physical and development control will get N21 billion worth of funding in the coming year. “The ultimate target is to promote economic expansion, technology, arts and culture, social inclusion and economic empowerment for Edo citizens, through sustained investments across various sectors of the economy necessary to drive growth and development. Public Private Partnership (PPP) will continue to dominate our investment initiatives in the New Year,” the state governor, while presenting the budget.

Infrastructure is needed to connect supply chains and move goods and services across the country, the Brookings Institution, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit public policy organization, said in its evaluation of the impact of infrastructure on economic growth.

Per capita income stood at only \$327, around a quarter of the national average. Soon after Oshiomhole came to power, the World Bank announced it would use every instrument available to help consolidate an Amnesty agreement in 2009 in the oil-rich Niger Delta. While Edo State is not one of the core oil states, reflecting an undeclared policy of supporting reformers, the Bank decided that Edo would be one of four states around which it would focus its engagement.<sup>5</sup> Across the four states of Edo, Rivers, Bayelsa and Delta there would be a youth training and public works employment program, measures to extend and deepen successful nation-wide CDD programs and assistance with ongoing PFM reforms. On the strength of the Governor's reform commitments, Edo seemed a special case, warranting more – thus Edo became one of only two states in Nigeria to be offered budget support, in the form of a Development Policy Credit.<sup>6</sup>

The Bank was aware that these measures might help restore some confidence, but that more would be required. By June 2010, a Public Expenditure Management and Financial Accountability Review had underscored the urgent need for, in the language of the WDR 2011, across the board “institutional transformation, and championed a ‘Public Finance Reform Action Plan’, from revenue administration through planning and budgeting, to

procurement, expenditure and audit control systems. But while the Governor was an enthusiastic supporter of what became a complex of economic governance, PFM and service delivery reforms he would surely have known that it would be some years before ventures delivered on-the-ground results. Edo's story perhaps has relevance for other states and other country teams. It is not one of a reform minded Governor ultimately being stymied by political instability or hostaged by a fragmented, incapable administration, or by the process of designing and making aid projects effective. It is a complicated story: one that provides insight into how some forms of reformist leadership might improve performance in Nigeria.<sup>7</sup>

The lack of many manufacturing industries in Edo State contributes to the state's weak economy. Benin City is the home of the majority of the industries. There are very few of these at the local government headquarters. Although these sectors don't produce many jobs, they draw migrants from rural areas and boost the local population in the areas where they are located. The largest concentration of government employees work for several ministries and parastatals in Benin City, the capital of Edo State. Each of the 18 local government headquarters employs a certain number of people as well. Because of this, both employed migrants and those seeking jobs are drawn to these settlements.<sup>8</sup>

In addition to offering formal, paid employment, Benin City and the local government headquarters serve as Edo State's principal commercial hubs. In Edo State, a large portion

of the labor force is employed in the unorganized sector, particularly in trade and small enterprises. These workers are housed in significant numbers in the small urban centers. These vendors can be found in conventional markets, businesses, and closed-down establishments. A portion of the workforce consists of craftsmen who reside in densely populated communities where they have ample opportunity to pursue their artistic endeavors.

### **Agriculture**

Agriculture is another significant labor-hiring industry. This employs the most amount of people. These laborers are not exclusively commercial farmers, nor do they engage in large-scale farming. Only a small amount of farming is done in urban areas; the majority of farming is done in rural areas. As young people with the physical capacity move to metropolitan areas in search of white-collar jobs, the percentage of workers employed in this industry has been decreasing over time. The state's economy implies that there are few centers of activity in the vast rural areas, while there are no activities in the few urban towns. The few urban centers' rural hinterlands are not closely connected to one another economically. In terms of raw material supply, there is no connection between the few prosperous industries and the rural areas.<sup>9</sup>

As a result, they receive business from rural areas without providing anything of value to them. The connections show up as backwash effects, or as metropolitan regions

"parasitizing" on rural areas. The rural areas would be encouraged to supply the items required in the metropolitan areas if there were integrated links between them. Multiplier effects will work to fill the demand gap left by urban industries' strong demand for rural items, increasing the productive capability of the rural area. This will equate to the economic development of rural areas. Rural and urban areas are isolated from one another, and development is significantly held down as a result of the lack of economic relations and activity flow between them. High crime rates and antisocial behavior, particularly among young people, are consequences of Edo State's high unemployment rate, which includes both rural and urban unemployment.

### **Road -Transportation**

Between 2009 and 2012, the Oshiomhole Administration contracted more than 450km of roads across 43 contracts, all with a significant drainage component and many with other furnishings like street lights. These contracts total NGN108.8 billion in value. The bulk of these contracts were commissioned in collaboration between the Ministry of Works (MoW) and the Ministry of Environment (MoE) in two batches: one in December 2009 and another in October 2011.<sup>10</sup> These batches accounted for approximately 43% and 29%, respectively, of total spending in the 2009-12 period, which encompassed the Administration's first term.

Average contract price is valued at NGN2.2 billion, and ranged from NGN34.5 million to NGN7.7 billion. Of the total value of contracts, 13.8% (or NGN15 billion) resulted from revisions to initial contract sums. End-of-project values were, on average, 17% higher than initial contract values, due to a range of factors that are explored more fully in this report. Unit costs averaged NGN363.5 million per km, but ranged from NGN89.2 million per km to NGN2.7 billion per km.

The Oshiomhole Administration increased capital spending on road construction alone to NGN16.2 billion in 2012. The State's overall budget profile clearly demonstrates the priority given to the road sector: road construction allocations increased from 14% to 20% of total spending between 2008 and 2012. In the previous Administration, for example, allocations for the entire transport sector ranged from NGN4.4 billion in 2005 to NGN7.1 billion in the election year of 2008.<sup>11</sup>

The Oshiomhole Administration created the fiscal space for this increase in capital spending in four ways: (i) the budgets were reduced and the capital share of annual budgets increased from 42% in 2007 to 58% in 2012; (ii) revenue from federal transfer payments increased by 9%; (iii) the State's internally generated revenue (IGR) increased by an average of 20% annually from 2009–12; and (iv) Edo State raised finances by floating infrastructure bonds worth NGN25 billion.

Under the Governor's close direction, methods for rapid delivery of quality road infrastructure have also been created. By the time of this study, 85% of the 450km of contracted roads had been completed. Site inspections and engineering tests on ten case study contracts showed that this new infrastructure matched quantity with adequate quality (see figure 4.3). At least six of the ten road sites examined through engineering tests were at par or above any reasonable standards of road quality in the Niger Delta. Walkways, a feature of this Administration's road projects and of public appreciation were of especially adequate quality.<sup>12</sup>

### **Market**

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Market structure is the way in which products and services are categorized and differentiated among various industries, depending on the level of competition. It consists of four types: perfect competition, monopolistic market, monopolistic market and monopolistic competition. The market structure provides insights into potential opportunities and threats, which may prompt the company to modify its processes and activities to remain competitive. This is done through a "market structure. For example, understanding market structure helps identify the sustainability of any product, which is a key element of market structure analysis, and then determines the best course of action.

The front of Oba under reconstruction during Adams Oshiomole’s administration, which looks very rough and shady with debris.

**Oba Market under Reconstruction**



**Oba Market after Reconstruction**



(Source: Pictures taken by the Researcher during Fieldwork in February 2024)

The front of Oba market was in shamble and very rough which made difficult for assessment. The Oba market which is located in Rig Road when it was renovated brought about sanity and neatness.

### **Road Construction and Maintenance**

Indeed, elections in 2012 returned the Governor for a second term with an increased majority in an election regarded as relatively free and fair. Oshiomhole 's electoral success in 2012 is widely attributed to his ability to deliver tangible results, particularly his efforts to ramp up capital spending, especially around roads and civil infrastructure, classrooms and clinics. Indications are that annual spending on roads tripled in the first year of office, and had quadrupled again three years later, to about NGN40.86 billion in 2012.<sup>13</sup>

That the Governor seized on capital spending to consolidate his power is not unusual: governments in contexts the international community describes as “fragile and conflicted” typically focus on the most discretionary resources to deliver assets that have high public visibility and thus political value. Capital spending is often also a good way to buy the allegiance of powerful political forces in the contractor community. But as often, these efforts only see money disappearing into the sand. Yet in Edo, a credible engineering evaluation conducted as part of this study showed that 85% of 43 road contracts, around 450kms of roads, had been completed, and that in the majority of cases,

roads and ancillary public assets had been produced at surprisingly high standards of quality.

This case study is an attempt to better understand the process through which the Administration was able to maximize its delivery. This report is one product of several ongoing efforts by the World Bank to better understand how to better tailor its interventions to local realities with the overarching objective of improving its impact. To do this in the case of capital spending in Edo, it was necessary to craft a study method that suspended judgments about actual practices. Thus, rather than holding these practices up to international standards, and highlighting deficits and shortcomings in relation to those standards, the study purpose was to depict how the State administration had responded to the political priorities of the new Governor by adapting to the constraints it faced and creating new ways to deliver through infrastructure spending.<sup>14</sup>

Each year, these road contracts accounted for 47% to 70% of Edo's total capital spending. To corroborate and deepen this knowledge, ten of these projects representative of the full range were studied in depth along dimensions common to public expenditure analyses: (i) integrity of project appraisal and approval; (ii) efficiency of procurement and contract management; (iii) effectiveness of implementation and monitoring; (iv) timeliness of flow of funds and payments; and (v) effectiveness of redress and community oversight.

Engineering assessments were also conducted to determine the quality, durability, and usability of these assets.

The outcome is a portrait of how both formal and informal institutions were applied to manage public finances in light of the operational constraints found in Edo's political economy. The results show how the behavior of these institutions impacted the speed, cost, completion, and quality of road assets ultimately delivered. At the same time, the approach clearly reveals a dynamic process in which Edo officials continually adapt on the basis of lessons learned – about both the benefits and risks of the approaches taken.

In September 2013, shows how this Administration has brought together a complex set of systems, procedures, norms, and capabilities to raise and invest finances to deliver quality public infrastructure.<sup>15</sup> The evidence presented here shows that the Oshiomhole Administration has created a functional, if unorthodox, system to manage public finances. Consistent with experience elsewhere, it is evident that this system performs well in some respects, but unevenly in its ability to overcome all of the contextual constraints and risks bearing on the effective use of public funds.

In the Edo case, this system is clearly capable of optimizing a number of economic, social, and political objectives while navigating an extraordinarily challenging operating environment. Institutionalizing the positive features of, and dealing with the risks exposed by, the approach taken to spending on roads infrastructure will be a challenge. It

is too early to know with any certainty the future trajectory. In some ways, this case shows elements of a ‘successful transition’ story: one where political leadership was able to garner sufficient political autonomy to send ‘credible signals’ of change, and cobble together executive capabilities so as to overcome the constraints posed by a dysfunctional civil service whose loyalties are uncertain, and donor partners who commit but are constrained in terms of rapid delivery.<sup>15</sup>

Delivery in such contexts is never likely to be easy or conform to international good governance standards but it is of primary concern if citizens, in new democracies like Edo, are to begin to trust their public institutions and deepen, rather than reject, the path towards a democracy. The question for institutions like the World Bank is how best to support such cases in ways that do not hamstring local leadership and credibility or the desire to deliver while, at the same time, helping leaders to maximize the value of scarce public resources and learn from other international experiences. This case study underlines the very rich and often messy reality that leaders frequently find when assuming office and the trade-offs that they are forced to make.

In doing so, it reminds us of the political realities within which we work and, like other case studies recently undertaken to inform Bank engagements in Nigeria, finds that traditional blue print approaches in such circumstances are unlikely to work and that sequencing, tailoring to local contexts and adaptation along a non-linear road to reform is

more feasible path. In the case of Edo the work stream evolved into one of helping reformist leadership to deepen a social contract, based on an electoral mandate, into a legacy of delivery, while attempting to improve at the same time, the institutional weaknesses which it inherited. The subsequent discussions around this report will be important for the Bank's engagement in Edo. The discussion around this case has also proven to be highly relevant for the World Bank Nigeria Country Team's thinking on two challenging sets of questions as it prepared its Country Program Strategy.

First, what kinds of prior knowledge is needed of 'how systems actually work' so as to ensure that engagements are wisely sequenced, particularly in reformist states, so as to provide the best environment for the Bank to leverage its support? Second, how can the Bank balance the desire of credible local leaders' with the need to ensure good governance and minimal standards? Beyond the Nigeria Country Team, in international development circles, there is now a vigorous debate taking place on precisely these issues and it is also hoped that the case of capital spending will also provide some specifics and insights. This report begins with a summary of spending on road and drainage infrastructure in Edo State since 2009.<sup>16</sup>

From 2009 to date the Edo State Government has awarded contracts to the tune of N121.6bn for construction of urban and rural roads amounting to 600Kms across the 3 senatorial districts. To ensure that our roads last for a very long time, we acknowledged

the relevance of both surface and underground drainage systems and other support infrastructure and therefore the ministry of Environment and Public Utilities has systematically embarked on a state wide drainage construction exercise, beautification and street lightings and in this sector alone, the state government has invested the sum of N=47.1bn as at August 2014.

### **LIST OF SOME CONSTRUCTED ROADS IN EDO STATE 2009 - 2014**

At the moment, construction works are at various completion stages on 31 intra and inter-city road projects across the State. The roads are constructed with drainage, stone base, asphalt overlay, thermoplastic road markings and central median (for dualisation projects). In built up areas, the roads also include walkways, street lights and traffic lights.

‘These roads are namely:

1. The six-lane Siluko Road Phase
2. Expansion of Ugbowo-Uselu-Urubi-Dawson-Akpakpava Junction road
3. Obakpolo Avenue, Iyobagosa Street,
4. Uwelu Road and Part of Textile Mill Road as part of the Storm-water Master Plan Project Aigbekan Street Asigie Street
5. Otote Street
6. Igbinaduwa Street,
7. Akugbe Road

8. 57-kilometre Evboeghae-Ugo-Urhonigbe Road with a bridge at Uromehe,
9. 25-kilometre Izuobazuwa-Umaza-Siluko Road,
10. 40-km Igueben-Ewohimi-Ewatto-Ohordua-Okhuesan Road with a bridge at Emu,
11. 30-kilometre Ekperi-Anegbette Road, (with two bridges) which transverses one of the most difficult terrains in the country
12. Igueben-Ebudin-Ujiogba Road
13. 17. Trrua-Ebudin-Ujiogba Road.
14. 22.2 km Ojah-Uneme Osu-Enwan-Ilgarra Road with a bridge at Ojirami
15. Ubhen-Olumoye road which covers 8.35 kilometres
16. 29 kilometre Ayog:=" %pana-Imiegba-Imiakebu Road with a spur at - 2." yto Okpekpe and \_ two bridges over Obe Ri +.
17. 13.7 kilometre six kilometer Uchi-Jattu-Afashio-IkabigboOjio road,
18. The 9km Amiendokt Ugboha Road
19. The Upper Lawani Street and environs, the scope of which include major Hood and erosion control work
20. The four-lane Mission and Upper Mission Road dualisation up to Aduwawa,
21. Iyekhe-Aviele Road
22. Ikhin-Eruere Road
23. Ugoneki-Ugieghudu-Ehor Road

24. Forestry/Upper Forestry up to New Lagos Road Junction including spur to Omo, Butcher and Tebite Streets.

**Eperi Anegbette Road before Reconstruction**



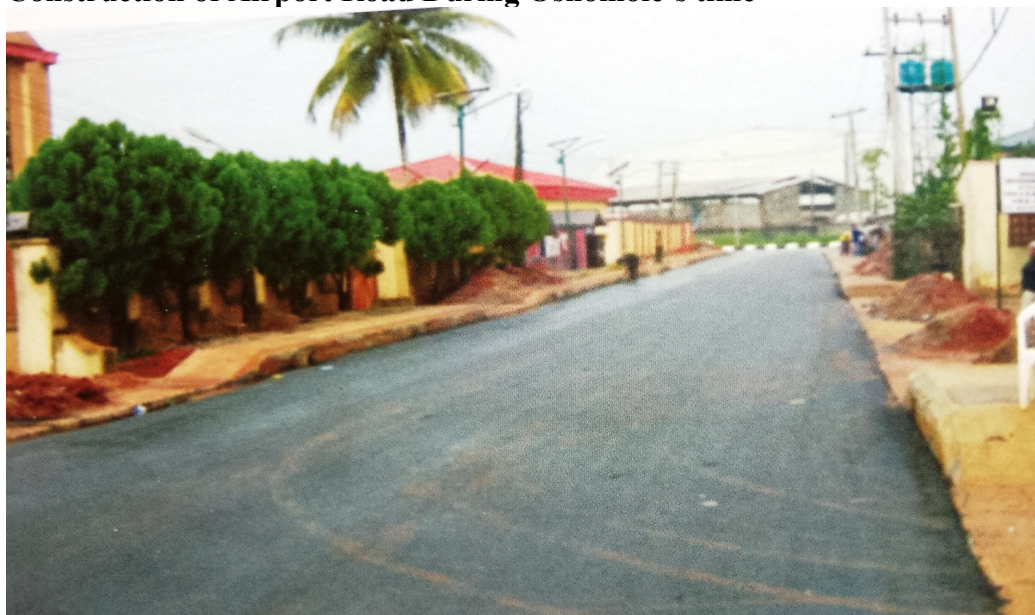
**Eperi Anegbette Road after Reconstruction**



**(Source: Pictures taken by the Researcher during Fieldwork in February 2024)**

The Eperi Anegbette Road was totally right off before Oshiomole’s administrative regime with deep gully which look like an extended water pool. However, the road was reconstructed by governor Oshiomole’s administrative regime. Criticism the reconstructed looks very fine and good which was used for political campaign by the APC party. This type of road needed to have side drainage system that would have control the flood excess but it was not done. This same road today has deteriorated because of substandard construction; it could not stand the test of time.

### **Construction of Airport Road During Oshomole’s time**



**(Source: Pictures taken by the Researcher during Fieldwork in February 2024)**

The researcher observed that the reconstruction of Airport Road during governor Oshiomole’s administrative regime was very welcome development, which usher

economic activities through the Airport road and environ as some of the adjoining roads were also reconstructed. As busy as this route the road was constructed with side drainage pattern that can help in controlling water peculation during heavy rains as a result the road could not stand the test of time. The airport road did not function for very long before it fell into disrepair, and its inferior quality of life depended on the quality of the reconstruction, this it is crucial to highlight that it did not receive a suitable reconstruction.

### **Reconstruction of Ihama Road of Airport Road**



**(Source: Pictures taken by the Researcher during Fieldwork in February 2024)**

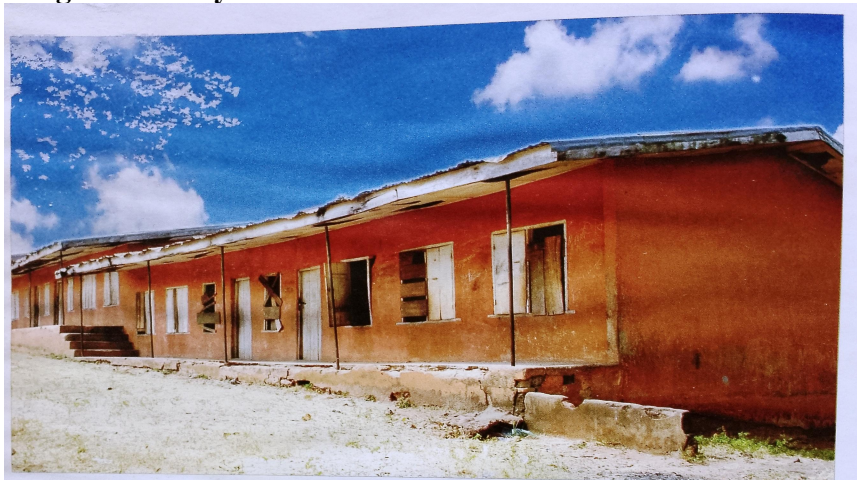
### **Golf Course Road off Airport Road Benin City**



**Source:** Picture taken by the Researcher during Fieldwork in February 2024

The same problem of drainage system cut across the various road reconstructed by the Adams Oshiomole's administrative regime. Hence the reconstruction of Ihama Road off Airport Road did not also stand the test of time when it went bad. According to the researcher the Golf Course Road off Airport Road Benin City, was also reconstructed by governor Oshiomole's administrative regime, however the road had no pedestal walkway, without side gutters that could channel runoff water from the environment. Roads maintenance continues to enjoy serious attention by this administration. To this end, the State Government has set up a Rapid Response Agency to serve among others, as a quick intervention unit to maintain our roads.<sup>17</sup>

### **Usogun Primary Auchi before Renovation**



**Source:** Pictures taken by the Researcher during Fieldwork in March 2024

The Usogun Primary Auchi before Renovation reconstructed by governor Oshiomole's administrative regime, however the school was dilapidated and right off.

### **Usogun Primary School Auchi after Renovation**



**Source:** Pictures taken by the Researcher during Fieldwork in March 2024

### **Uwendowa Primary School Ekpoma before Renovation**



### **Uwendowa Primary School after Ekpoma Renovation**



### **Uwendowa Primary School Ekpoma before Renovation**

**Source: Pictures taken by the Researcher during Fieldwork in March 2024**

Inspite of the beauty of this school after reconstruction there need for maintenance which has brought to unfavourable condition presently.

**Usagbe Primary School Fugar before Renovation**



**Usagbe Primary School Fugar after Renovation**



**Source: Picture taken by the Researcher during Fieldwork March, 2024**

The reconstruction of one blocks of 2 class rooms and 2 offices in Usagbe Primary School Fugar after Renovation. Before Renovation it was in bad condition of usage and students were studying with dilapidated structure with sits and good black boards.

### **Olua Primary School Benin City before Renovation**



Before the reconstruction of one block of 5 classroom and 4 offices Olua Primary School building was dilapidated and out of usage and situation were studying in dilapidated structure with bad chairs and good black boards.

### **Olua Primary School Benin City after Renovation**



**Source:** Pictures taken by the Researcher during Fieldwork in March 2024

The reconstruction of one block of 5 classroom and 4 offices Olua Primary School Benin City after renovation, before renovation it was totally right off and it was out of usage

and situation were studying in dilapidated structure with bad chairs and good black boards.

### **St. Maria Goretti Girls Grammar School Benin City before Renovation**



**Source:** Picture taken by the Researcher during Fieldwork in March 2024

The reconstruction of one block of 8 class rooms and \$ offices in St. Maria Goretti Girls Grammar School Benin City before Renovation. Before renovation it was totally right off and it was out of usage and students were studying with dilapidated structure with sits and good black boards.

### **St. Maria Goretti Girls Grammar School Benin City after Renovation**



**Source:** Picture taken by the Researcher during Fieldwork in March 2024

The reconstruction of one block of 8 class rooms and 5 offices in St. Maria Goretti Girls Grammar School Benin City after Renovation. After renovation the school became reference point as it very good and attractive to students

The Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and implementation of educational policies, management and supervision in all Senior Secondary Schools, Technical Colleges and State-owned Tertiary Institutions. Furthermore, it ensures the development of schemes of work from national curricula with a view to accommodating the peculiarities of the state in teaching and learning. The vision of the Ministry was to provide holistic educational opportunities for all students for the acquisition of appropriate life skills and competence in order to make them useful to themselves and the

society in a world of modern societal challenges. The Ministry's mission is to provide qualitative and functional education for all in a conducive school environment with effective teaching and learning strategies that will result in a positive change of behavior in the learners. The Ministry upholds the core values of hard work, commitment, dedication and best practices in pursuing its vision and implementing its mission.<sup>18</sup>

### **Social Infrastructure**

As part of efforts to promote Social Corporate Responsibility, the EIRS has engaged the youths in some of its activities and operations, which has helped empowered them economically and socially. In order to carry out its operations professionally and in a transparent and accountable manner, the State Government has engaged the services of a reputable Consultancy Firm, Compliance Professionals, to assist the EIRS towards the full implementation of the new Revenue Administration Law and Reform Programme of Edo State Government. The Consultancy assignment, which has since commenced, covers the following areas:

- a. Designing a proper governance structure aimed at re-engineering the processes and procedures of the EIRS, for improved service delivery and eventual automation;
- b. Selection of key personnel, to fit into the roles and responsibilities, as obtainable in the Revenue Service to enhance optimal performance;<sup>17</sup>

c. Training and manpower development to build internal capacity in the EIRS in order to be fully in charge of its operations hitherto rendered by external tax professionals / consultants.

### **Educational Building**

Adams Oshiomhole decided that he needed to further his education and so in 1975 he proceeded to Ruskin College at Oxford, United Kingdom to study industrial relations, majoring in labor economics. Furthermore, in 1989, he attended the National Institute for policy and strategic studies (NIPSS) Plateau state of Nigeria, making him a Member of the National Institute (MNI).

Edo State Governor, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole re-build with red roof Arue Primary School, Arue, Uromi in Esan North East Local Government Area, Edo State and equip it with modern furniture. Governor Oshiomhole explained that Arue primary school serves the educational need of children that are living at Isua, Error, Arue and Uzenema communities.

The Governor disclosed that the contractor that would handle the school building project would be mobilized to commence work next week and that he would complete the project and commission it before the end of his tenure in November 12, 2016, stressing that this would be his parting gift to the people of the community. Governor Oshiomhole also hinted that the Ugboha Water Works would be completed by this next year the Federal

Government. Also speaking at the Arue rally, Barr. Paul Orhibhabor noted that it was Governor Oshiomhole that had provided industrial bore-hole for pipe-borne water supply, red-roof school and built road for the community even as the community had illustrious children who could not provide such basic amenities.

At all the respective campaign venues, where the people from the neighbouring wards converged, Governor Oshiomhole enumerated some of the schools, roads, water supply as among the numerous infrastructure that his administration had built in the various wards in the local government area and other parts of the state. The Royal Father, who thanked Governor Oshiomhole for presenting the staff of office to him, assured them that Uzea is for APC.<sup>20</sup>

Education as a policy item happens to be top most in the priorities of the Edo State Economic Agenda of the Governor Oshiomhole-led administration. It is so for obvious reasons because it is the most important asset Edo people can boast of and this is what makes its people different and unique. However, Oshiomhole's critics are quick to say teachers' reward is on earth and that they should earn a fortune as if the Governor was voted to pay salaries and wages alone allow other areas of infrastructural development to suffer. How is it possible to combine the over 190 projects on-going in the state with a colossal sum of over ₦180 billion injected into it? For me, I fear that one day, after Oshiomhole, whoever gets the mandate to preside over the state treasury may have to

resign over inability to cope with monthly wage bill, sack workers or better still, choose between workers salary and state development; all these Oshiomhole is coping with.

## **Health**

Governor Adams Oshiomhole has assured the people of Edo State that the State Government would continue to deliver good roads, schools, and hospitals across the 3 senatorial districts of the state, including the rural areas. In the health sector, the government embarked on massive construction and re-construction of general hospitals, including: all the General hospitals across the 18-local government headquarters in the state (with major emphasis on maternity wards to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates).; upgrading of the Central Hospital Benin to a full scale Tertiary Hospital; building of new and ultra-modern hospitals in Otuo and Ewohimi, in 2012, Edo State government commenced free Medicals for Person above the age of 60 years in government owned hospitals in the state.

This same incentive is also applicable to uniformed school students and pupils. In 2014, we commenced the procurement process for a suitable Hospital Management Software through which the Hospitals Management Board will coordinate operations of all state owned hospitals. As at August 2014, the state government has invested the sum of N4.4bn in health sector.<sup>21</sup>

A flurry of activities has been implemented in the health sector to drive the vision to free the citizens of Edo State from the heavy burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, with a view to significantly improving the quality of life thereby increasing the life expectancy of the people. In this regard, achievements have been made in both Curative and Preventive arms in the sector.

It is pertinent to note that substantial impact has been made by the Oshiomhole Administration in the areas of: Human resources for health: staff audit, capacity building and recruitment; Infrastructural development: strengthening of secondary health care through the construction/renovation of existing structures and provision of hospital equipment; Preventive Services; and Partnership for Health.

### **Human Resources for Health**

In the area of human resources for health, my administration fully recognizes the shortage of critical manpower which encompasses all categories of qualified health personnel including specialist doctors, medical and dental officers, nurses, pharmacists, laboratory scientists, hospital administrators and other cadres in the hospitals. Approval has been given for the recruitment of all cadres of staff into the Ewohimi Hospital, Ewohimi in the first instance, while priority will be given to the Government policy of yearly recruitment of all cadres of staff to redress the acute shortage in the health sector.

Staff audit was carried out in the Ministry of Health and the Hospitals Management Board to determine the actual staff strength in view of the desire to fill positions vacated by retired officers and to re-invigorate the aging workforce Also, tremendous progress was made in the area of capacity development. Staffs of all cadres were sponsored to professional courses, programmes and workshops. ‘This is expected to boost staff morale and improve job performance in the critical health sector.

**Newly Built Hostel for Health Technology by Governor Oshiomhole**



**Source:** Picture taken by Researcher during Fieldwork at Government House in March

2024

### **Newly Built Central Hospital Auchi Edo State**



The above structure represents a Newly Built Hospital Auchi State by governor Oshiomhole, in Benin City.

### **Newly Built General Hospital Igarra during Governor Oshiomhole's time**



**Source: Pictures by the Researcher during Fieldwork in February 2024**

The above structure represents a newly built general hospital Igarra during Governor Oshiomhole's time by Governor Oshiomhole, in Benin City.

## **Security**

Since any act of insecurity is viewed as a serious danger to the entire system and structure of governance, citizen security has continued to be Governor Oshiomhole's top priority throughout the Edo. High levels of insecurity raise the possibility that a state may descend into anarchy when its people come to believe that established authority is powerless to protect them. Sectional security committees have proliferated throughout the state as a result of the insecurity problem in Benin City. Because of this, organized groups in the state have been forced to start the process of setting up security teams to protect their lives and property. Considering the various forms that insecurity takes on a daily basis, it is still the most talked about topic in Nigeria. Every part of the state was experiencing extreme instability, with reports of property and human casualties. What is even more concerning is the government's apparent lack of strategies to address the massive security issues. Considering the high prevalence of crime in Edo State, this study is essential to understanding how the Governor Oshiomhole structure encourages a uniform security policy for citizens.<sup>22</sup>

Although academics have worked to investigate examples of insecurity in Edo State, community policing and research must still be linked in order to create a long-lasting security framework for Edo. Instead of using private militias and vigilante groups to combat insecurity in Edo State, it is recommended that the impact of these agencies be investigated and that they be reinstated. This is especially crucial in light of the

resources that Governor Oshiomhole voted for security, which haven't really helped to address the situation.

### **Electricity**

Because it can be readily transformed into a variety of energy forms, such as light, sound, heat, motion, and so on, power energy also known as electrical energy, power, or electricity—is the most adaptable type of energy. Conventional energy sources such as fossil fuels (coal, natural gas), hydropower, pumped storage, biotic energy, nuclear fission, and so forth, or non-conventional (renewable) energy sources like solar, wind, tidal and wave power, biofuels (biomass and biogas), geothermal, ocean thermal, or a combination of both, are typically used to generate power energy. The majority of the electricity produced in Edo State is sadly produced mostly by natural or basic conventional energy sources like hydropower and fossil fuels (gas).

Under Governor Oshiomhole, electricity generation increased from its current level of less than 5000MW, with a particular emphasis on renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and mini-hydro power. In this sense, the country's 2005 Renewable Energy Master Plan ought to be aggressively carried out. Take the following actions to alter the current incorrect pattern of power and energy consumption:

- a. Provide commercial and industrial enterprises with additional electricity from the national grid in order to support and expand them.<sup>23</sup>

b. Promote, support, and uphold a culture of power control and conservation among all users, particularly residential ones, in order to ensure the efficient use of energy that is available. The method of managing and lowering the quantity of power energy used by making effective use of power energy with little to no waste and still producing a comparable result is known as energy control and conservation.

c. When it comes to power supply, the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and the National Assembly ought to implement policies that benefit commercial and industrial consumers.

d. Unlike the current practice, the electricity tariff for residential structures, commercial establishments, and industrial concerns should be set so that residential customers pay the highest amount, followed by commercial establishments and industrial concerns paying the lowest amount. The present tariff that the NERC approved between 2008 and 2010 has to be reconsidered in this regard. It was a minor mystery why the tariff applied to both Edo State and Benin City equally.

e. Prepaid meters should be used in conjunction with an adequate billing and metering infrastructure. To ensure electricity supply, every building needs to have prepaid meters installed. This will promote energy control and saving of power.

## **Water**

Under the direction of the Edo State Rapid Response Agency [EDRRA], the Edo State government built the Usen community's borehole water scheme, but it has since been abandoned. Project coordinator Umoren Johnson stated in an interview with Espuvoice that the shelved project was started in 2011 while Adams Aliyu Oshiomhole was in office. Access to clean water and sanitary facilities encourages women in particular to engage in more productive activities and to create and preserve jobs related to these services. Indeed, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which address poverty, work, economic growth, and gender equality, will be aided by access to a clean water supply and adequate sanitation.<sup>24</sup>

Due to a lack of sanitary facilities and water supplies, women and girls are primarily responsible for gathering water and tending to sick relatives, which makes it difficult for them to participate in school. The availability of a clean, functional private restroom and a safe water source for teenage girls can improve their educational opportunities. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding water supply and sanitation components was signed by the Edo Government in Benin on Wednesday with the European Union and the Niger Delta Support Programme (EU-NDSP). The state administration was pleased with the EU-NDSP pledge to provide safe, drinkable water in the state, according to Gov. Adams Oshiomhole, who signed on behalf of the state at the

event in Benin. It is one thing to express interest in a subject; it is quite another to be devoted to it, according to Oshiomhole.

The MoU's stipulations will be followed, he declared, and the government would make every effort to make sure of it. According to Oshiomhole, the government has seen that there is no way to overstate the difficulties associated with sanitation and that residents in the state still have a lot to learn about basic hygiene. He stated that applying the full force of the law on those who violate environmental and sanitary regulations will serve as deterrence to others and would help to address some of the difficulties. Oshiomhole commended the EU-NDSP for their interest in the state and vowed the government's commitment to the relationship.

Moreover, it will facilitate the advancement towards the accomplishment of Sustainable Development Goal 6 by 2030. By 2030, the Adams Aliyu Oshiomhole administration will need to put in extraordinary effort to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6. In light of this, more precise WASH data are required in order to guarantee equal access to services related to water, sanitation, and hygiene. The World Health Organization (WHO) is called upon to support efforts to enhance access to water, sanitation, and hygiene since it is the international authority on public health and is spearheading global efforts to prevent the transmission of water-borne diseases.

## **Urbanisation**

The concept of a rural-urban continuum suggests that rural and urban communities are spatially interconnected, meaning that rural areas cannot exist independently of their metropolitan counterparts. Because of their relationship, the two communities can be integrated into one area through strategic planning. This way of thinking gave rise to the concept of integrated settlement planning and development, which views the two formerly distinct communities as having a lot in common and promotes spatial development.<sup>24</sup> The urban areas serve as the nuclei of integrated rural-urban planning, while rural regions serve as their hinterlands. In this sense, the two towns can support one another's expansion and advancement. It makes sense for rural and urban settlements to serve as the foundation for regional development since their resources may work in tandem to solve shared spatial issues.<sup>25</sup>

There is a rationale for spatial ordering in order to aim for integrated development because of the ongoing concentration on Benin City and a select few other settlements in terms of infrastructure amenities and investments, with very little in the villages. The following suggestions can be helpful in implementing integrated development:

- Cohesion policies are necessary when it comes to the design of social infrastructure, economic investments, and jobs. These will be dispersed throughout the regional area,

so correcting the spatial imbalance in development and population. Employment growth can only be sustained if it is linked to regional resources.

- Rural master plans must be created in order to carry out spatial planning. Because of its sizable and rapidly expanding population, this is already happening in rural China. Nigeria's rural areas need to be ready to take on the problems of spatial development and growth as the country's population continues to grow.
- For the people of Edo State to benefit from true development and to deter official corruption, sector planning needs to be linked to spatial and functional planning.

### **Empowerment Programmes**

The people of Edo state have been systematically denied the opportunity to enjoy their fundamental rights to good government and development more than any other people in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The people of Edo State were ignored and hated for a long time. On the other hand, the leaders participated in a rat race of self-preservation and played dirty. With the election of Comrade Adams Oshiomhole as governor of Edo State, this scenario was set to improve and demonstrate how effective leadership and government can reduce poverty. Before going on to talk about how Governor Adams Oshiomhole's current administration began addressing poverty with his enormous achievements in infrastructure.<sup>24</sup> We will quickly discuss the state's history and the

difficulties it has experienced over time as we work toward the socioeconomic and educational reform and growth of a state that was previously in a state of stupor.<sup>26</sup>

About 2.5 million people live in Edo State's eighteen local government units. Tree crops including oil palm and rubber are grown there. Solid minerals such as limestones, gypsums, gold, marble, clay, and so on are also abundant in the state. The inhabitants of Edo State are incredibly industrious and skilled in weaving, bronze casting, woodworking, and pottery. The forest products of the state, such as magnificent tropical tree species that serve as ready-made raw materials for the furniture sector, are booming. Regretfully, the state is known as a "civil service state" since, since its establishment in 1991, no government has been able to leverage its natural resources for the state's growth. Sorry, poor leadership! Following the military's incursion and removal of the nation's democratically elected leaders, the civilian government led by John Odigie (of the SDP) was overthrown in 1991. The employment of various military administrators to manage governmental affairs was a consequence of military annexation.

One can categorically and unequivocally claim that the Comrade Adams Oshiomhole administration was prepared to turn around Edo claim's horrible and horrifying circumstances even prior to assuming office. He stated before taking office that "people of good conscience, clear vision, courage, and compassion must directly intervene in order to foster good governance, which is a pre-condition for economic growth, wealth

creation, public welfare, social justice, and pro-poor policies." It might be said that Comrade Adams Oshiomhole has been successful in addressing poverty in the state head-on to a significant degree. His primary focus on policy has been the following:

- 1) Increasing internal revenue generation (IRG) and collecting it.
- 2) The creation of more jobs.
- 3) Building and maintaining highways throughout the state, not only in Benin City.
- 4) Flooding, erosion management, and drainage rehabilitation.
- 5) Supply of high-quality, reasonably priced healthcare and education services.
- 6) Encouragement of independence and self-sufficiency in the production of food and raw materials.

Pursuing a society free from crime and marked by peace, as well as raising the standard of administration and creating a highly effective service. Without a question, just by looking at what has been done and what is being done, one can conclude that excellent leadership and good governance have led to the current condition of affairs in Edo condition. For instance, the Youth Employment Scheme (EDOYES), which pulls teenagers from the streets according to several classifications, is an attempt to combat unemployment. The Rapid Response Agency's debut has also been successful. The following tasks are under the purview of the Rapid Response Agency: emergency road

and drainage maintenance; emergency portable water and energy supply; emergency public infrastructure reconstruction; emergency shelter provision, etc.<sup>27</sup>

Due to his administration's financial difficulties, Comrade Oshiomhole has successfully raised Edo State's internally generated revenue (IGR) to a level never seen before in the state's history. This has made it much easier for his administration to carry out the developmental commitments it made to the people of Edo State. Surprisingly, among his administration's notable accomplishments include road construction and restoration, urban redevelopment initiatives, youth and sports development, human capital development, and educational advancement.

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**CHAPTER FOUR**  
**THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES OF INFRASTRUCTURAL**  
**DEVELOPMENT DURING OSHIOMHOLE'S ADMINISTRATION**

**Overview of Oshiomhole Government Achievement**

Adams Oshiomhole government recorded monumental achievement across Benin City (the state capital) since the inception of his administration. The success story of his administration is felt and seen in all parts of the state including Benin City, the state capital. There were different infrastructural projects, economic and social infrastructure, ranging from school projects, water projects, health projects, etc.<sup>1</sup>

Road/ Transportation Sector: The road projects undertaken and completed in Benin city, the state capital in seven years makes one to wonder if there were tarred roads in the city before his coming. From the 6- lane Airport road complete with side drains and walkaways, with underground drains which in some parts are over five- metres deep and two metres wide, adorned with street lights and greens to the equally beautiful six- lane Akpakpava and Sapele roads which have the same specifications in terms of design and aesthetics as the Airport road, the Oshiomhole government signaled a clear intention to develop Benin city into one of Nigeria's finest cities.<sup>2</sup> Other roads projects were also completed in Benin city which have completely transformed the capital city. Among these are the Gini Fawehinmi Layout comprising six roads complete with covered drains,

walkaways and street lights; Oba Market road, stadium road, Soponba road, six- lane Sapele road, Upper Siluko road, Six- lane New Lagos road;<sup>3</sup> Oro Street, Uwa lane, 3rd cemetery, Iheyia, Five junction and all other adjoining streets, all completed with covered drains, walkaways and street lights; completed street lights at Upper Saponba and Ramat Park-Agbor road. Also, the King's Square in the heart of Benin City sits proudly with a beautiful musical tune and a water fountain which glows in different colors. The state government is continuing with the uncommon transformation of the road sector. A total length of 535km intercity roads has since been embarked upon across the state and more than 45km are being upgraded in the state capital.<sup>4</sup>

The intercity roads were constructed on the basis of at least one road per local government area with a comparative advantage of connecting many communities, towns and villages to accelerate social and economic activities. Most of the major roads in Benin City have either been dualized or reconstructed, enhancing the urban status, boosting economic activities and beautification. The roads were well designed by competent consultants and constructed by reputable contractors to international standards.

**Educational Sector:** A number of primary and secondary schools across Benin City have also been refurbished and reconstructed.<sup>5</sup> In Edo, the red roof revolution, is a common denominator in almost every community in the state. This simply means the revolution in rebuilding of the public schools which were left to rot for years. Total School

Transformation Programme over hundred and twenty-one secondary schools were reconstructed and renovated across the three senatorial districts of the state. Forty-three of these schools have been fully reconstructed and renovated while the others are at various stages of completion. The transformation includes the construction of modern classrooms, laboratories, and libraries as well as the construction of perimeter wall fencing of the schools designed to enhance security and raise the learning tone.<sup>6</sup>

Health Sector; Adams Oshiomhole administration saw to the improvement of the health sector in Benin city. Now standing tall on Sapele road is the 200 bed Central Hospital which is remarkable for its beauty and quality of structure. Notably, tremendous impact has been made by the Oshiomhole Administration in the areas of; staff audit, capacity building and recruitment; Infrastructural development; strengthening of secondary health care through the construction\renovation of existing structures and provision of hospital equipment; Preventive Services; and Partnership for Health.<sup>7</sup>

The Ministry has recorded monumental achievement across the state since the inception of this administration. Below are some of the achievements: Total School Transformation Programme Over one hundred and twenty-one (121).<sup>8</sup> Secondary Schools were reconstructed and renovated across the three Senatorial Districts of the State. Forty-three of these schools have been fully reconstructed and renovated while the others are at various stages of completion.

The transformation includes the construction of modern classrooms, laboratories and libraries as well as the construction of perimeter wall fencing of the schools designed to enhance security and raise the learning tone.<sup>9</sup>

Oshiomole's administration achievement; was with continuous with the uncommon transformation of the road sector. A total length of 535km intercity roads has since been embarked upon across the state and more than 45km are being upgraded in the state capital. The intercity roads were constructed on the basis of at least one road per local government area with a comparative advantage of connecting many communities, towns and villages to accelerate social and economic activities. Most of the major roads in Benin City have either been dualised or reconstructed, enhancing the urban status, boosting economic activities and beautification.

The roads were well designed by competent consultants and constructed by reputable contractors to international standards.<sup>10</sup> The urban road is comprehensive and encompasses the full complement of road infrastructure of walkways on storm water channel as appropriate, pavement made up of crushed stone base, binder and wearing course of asphalt, green median with verges, street light and traffic light in the dualised roads. Some of these roads have been completed in the past.

Academic achievement is the outcome of education; the extent to which a student, a teacher or institution has achieved their educational goals. Academic achievement is an

important parameter in measuring students' learning outcome in various school disciplines. Oshiomole's administration improved the abilities to attain certain levels of instructional objectives outcome of classroom instructions through renovation of school buildings and classroom implement.

Before Oshiomole's Administration there was no supervision of schools for decades. The administration observed that the absence of supervision of schools in the past has been the major reason educational policies failed in that, a system not supervised and assessed is bound to collapse. That is why Oshiomole's administration provided school facilities, which brought meaningful teaching and learning environment.<sup>11</sup> The availability of educational facilities help to build the capacity of a school to deal effectively with school curricular and extracurricular activities, manage behaviours and promote good teaching and learning environment. Although, there was intervention in the provision of school facilities by Adams Oshiomhole administration, however, recent findings revealed that such infrastructural development has decline drastically. Oshiomole's administration organizes the security outfit of Edo, particularly Benin City, during his regime Benin City was free from prevalence of crimes.

## **Challenges of Oshiomole's Administration**

There several challenges during Oshiomole's Administration of infrastructural development which can be classified as political, economic, social, technological, legal, environmental, and safety.

**Political environment** refers to the political stability, policymaking, and governance of the project's internal and external environments. The economic climate is concerned with interest rates, inflation, foreign exchange rates, and price volatility. The social context has an impact on worker diversity, which includes cultural and generational differences. The technological environment was concerned with the machines that are utilized to carry out undertakings.<sup>12</sup>

**Physical environmental factors** such as the terrain, geography, and climatology of the site are also critical; Benin has rainfall throughout the period of building and construction of roads. Safety concerns concern on-site assets' safety, security, and health, including human, material, and financial resources. While Oshiomole's Administration has addressed these issues through specific projects, however, Oshiomole's Administration lacks a shared strategic vision for infrastructural development. Effective governance is critical to ensure the provision of infrastructure is both practical and efficient. This is mainly because a strong government ensures that resource allocations align with state goals to meet public demands.<sup>13</sup>

**Misappropriation of Funds:** Inflate invoices for hiring of equipment and labour during Oshiomole's Administration. This occurs due to over dependence on manual processes that are not strictly enforced at the site. This encourages manipulation of equipment and resource usage. Pilferage of inventory and scrap during Oshiomole's Administration, leading lack of robust controls to checkmate the high movement of material and vehicles hence some area of the reconstruction had complains.

**Inflated work certification for earth work** done for road construction during Oshiomole's Administration. Over dependence on contractors to complete such work and lack of resources to monitor and validate the work completed. Also, post completion checks were not possible in such cases.<sup>14</sup>

**Collusion** between vendors and employees to inflate quotations was also common during Oshiomole's Administration; this led to high quantity of procurement (including emergency procurement) at project sites. Retrospective approvals are common, thereby providing the opportunity to inflate the cost incurred.

**Issuance of multiple change orders** leading to inflation of contract value during Oshiomole's Administration, led to frequent changes made to be contracted scope of work, make it difficult to monitor whether changes were really and if proper approvals were sought, which caused

**Lack of Integrity among Field Staffs:** Many people believed that during Oshiomole's Administration breed lack integrity in the workplace which was important as these traits foster a positive workplace culture. One where there is open communication, good decision making and a strong moral compass guiding all decisions and actions, whereas irresponsible behaviour and distrust can make a work environment uncomfortable and tense.

**Environmental Factors:** one of the environmental challenges was climatic condition of Benin City. This had affected many of these projects, particularly the road construction.<sup>15</sup>

**Corruption Level:** the level of corruption that is in Nigeria was prominent in Benin City during reconstruction which is too high and allowed incompetent hands to handle contracts. Professionals are not allowed to handle projects due to corruption. The cost of governance and recurrent expenditure in Edo State were also high leaving little for capital expenditure for civil service. The high level of unemployment is a dis-incentive to market and to capital development.

### **Analysis**

The challenges of infrastructure development in third Benin City are many. The demand surpasses the supply and finance that will stimulate rapid provision is not there. Presently, due to wide gap between provision and needs, the leadership classes are in arrears in all sectors. The political situation is not encouraging to foreign investors. Governments do

not set the priority right in infrastructure development. Projects are supposed to meet objectives, but in most cases, projects embarked upon are just politically motivated.

Good governance will be the only antidote that can bridge the wide gap. Secondly, good governance promotes accountability, reduces corruption and therefore minimises resource wastage through inefficiency. And finally, good governance ensures stability (economic and political) and reduces the level of risk associated with large and lumpy infrastructure investments. This in turn facilitates the mobilisation of both public and private sector financing resources that made Oshiomole's tail end cumbersome for Edo Indigenes.

Edo State has a big land mass that makes it possible to spread out. Connecting the people of Benin City with roads, and potable water will be tasking, even for the present government. High cost of materials for infrastructure development is also a challenge. The local content of production of goods and services must be increased to reduce production cost.

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## CHAPTER FIVE

### Conclusion

This study has examined the infrastructural development of Benin during Oshiomhole's administration in Edo State from 2008 -2016. Infrastructure affects growth through several supply and demand-side channels. Investments in energy, telecommunications, and transport networks directly impact growth, as all types of infrastructure represent an essential input in any production of goods and services. In addition, infrastructure can also reduce the cost of delivered goods, facilitate the physical mobility of people and products, remove productivity constraints, and increase competitiveness.

The use of smart meters leads to substantial improvements in electricity service quality, as illustrated by the randomized installation of smart meters, which utilities can install to monitor service quality in Edo State. Treated households made significantly more energy efficiency investments, potentially mitigating their electricity consumption increases post-intervention. While infrastructure can lead to beneficial economic outcomes, the concrete development impact of infrastructure depends significantly on how infrastructure investment strategies are defined and implemented.

On a general note the linkage between infrastructural development and economic growth outcomes is one of the most popular topics for debates in recent scientific

literature and economic research. The role of infrastructure is widely analysed as very vital to household and firms as availability and quality of infrastructure result in different decisions to invest and may influence migration, business establishment location. Although, the result of the two estimations speak that infrastructural development has a positive linkage with our economy growth but, the researchers believe this is in term of availability and quality of infrastructure in our economy .And also, the magnitude of the contribution leaves a lot to question. This questionable contribution or lack of quality infrastructural development has been seen in the relocation of some firms out of Nigeria to other neighbouring countries like Nigeria etc.

The quality of infrastructure has direct effect on business productivity and growth, and different investments to infrastructure capital from inequality between regions and countries. The role of infrastructural development on economic is a vital issue for strategic and development country policy management for a country with weak quality of infrastructure base. Efficient infrastructure attracts centers of production and consumption, gives greater access to markets and education centers and that timely access to health care, facilitated by transport can prevent maternal deaths and lower infant mortality rates. Infrastructure development is one of major elements of structural reforms in developing economy like Nigeria because of its expected large economic and social impact. As can be inferred from the studies by other researchers, infrastructure

investments alone do not have a significant influence on economic growth. The institutional environment is a very important complement, allowing infrastructure investments to be translated into economic growth. Based on this, the following are the recommendations of this study:

In the area of transportation, more roads should be constructed and the existing one adequately maintained particularly the ones already taken over by gully erosion as it will lead to the reduction of production of firms as well as inability of the firms to evacuate consumables both final and intermediate from rural to urban centers. The government should enhance the competition between and the efficiency in infrastructure industries, (especially electricity) and with it, the government can make an indirect contribution to economic development. Infrastructure supports the development of civilization worldwide. Governments, institutions, multinationals, and other corporate organizations commit significant resources to build and maintain various infrastructures to achieve their objectives and make life easier. Understanding what infrastructure is may help you take advantage of the numerous job opportunities in infrastructural development and maintenance that are available in many industries.

Infrastructure is essential for the survival of human societies worldwide. It supports every facet of human livelihood, from the well-being and survival of one person to the collaboration between individuals to achieve corporate or communal goals. For

instance, health care and educational services are essential to an individual's survival and productivity, roads and bridges make commerce within and between regions possible, and the supply of energy is essential to power industries. Because of its importance in the elemental aspects of life, the state of a nation's infrastructure can show the level of its development and prosperity. Governments and organizations typically invest in infrastructure to pursue human and economic development, which highlights its importance to lives and livelihoods.

The roads make a critical contribution to economic development and growth, and bring important social benefits to any Urban Community. The economy and a greater part of the Edo indigenes depend on road transportation. In terms of health Oshiomhole's administration actually touch reconstruction of central and school of health, but he did not make lasting solution for primary health problem for Benin people, in terms of the market he reconstructed Oba market but left other markets like, New Benin market, Oliha and others in Benin City. Unfortunately, these roads health centers, are acclaimed to be among the worst in Edo state at present because there was no good drainage system. Indeed, it has been estimated that Adams Oshiomhole's tenure did not build the civil service in Edo State, particularly indigenes of Benin City. Presently the state of infrastructure has gone back to its dilapidated state, which has made many businesses to lose economically to the poor conditions of the roads. Many schools have also gone to

through such losses can be huge or no doubt, detrimental to the economic developmental aspirations. Currently, as a critical infrastructure, adequate road reconstruction, rehabilitation and maintenance have become periodically necessary. The responsibility for the building and maintenance of the road networks in Benin City has become very important.

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Asemota Edebiri Joseph	34	Businessman	Ring Road, Benin City,	23/3/2024
Edobor Akugbe Rosaline	55	Businessman	New-Benin, Benin City	2/3/2024
Eghosa Ehinoma Friday	39	Teacher Edo Boys Grammar School	Benin City	2/3/2024
Efeomo Edegbe	56	Businesswoman	New Benin	8/3/2024
Eseosa Susan Idiagbon	51	teacher India College,	Benin City	8/3/2024
Abigail Osaigbovo	55	Businesswoman	Mission Road Market	27/4/2024
Omagbon Juliet	45	Businesswoman	Oba Market	17/2/2024
Shedrack Udugbai (Honourable)	40+	Special Adviser, Youth Affairs to Godwin Obaseki	Edo State Government House	27/4/2024

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