

Obaseki performs groundbreaking for Loyola Jesuit University in Esan South-East

OMI OMAGE

The Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, on Wednesday, performed the groundbreaking of Loyola Jesuit University in Ewatto, Esan South East Local Government Area of the State.

Obaseki at the event, said that the reform of the state's education system remains the greatest legacy of his administration, noting that the reform has repositioned Edo as a hub for human capital development in Africa.

The proposed Loyola Jesuit University in Ewatto is to be

● *says Edo indigenes to enjoy scholarship to varsity*

sited on 214.9 hectares of land and is the first Jesuit University in West Africa under the Catholic Society of Uromi Diocese in Esan South East.

Obaseki noted that the project would benefit not only Esan people but will also serve as a nurturing ground for the next generation of thinkers who would contribute to the development of the State.

He stated, "I am pleased to join you here today on this auspicious occasion of the groundbreaking ceremony for the Loyola Jesuit University in Ewatto

Esan South East Local Government Area of Edo State.

"This milestone aligns perfectly with our vision of making Edo State a hub for human capital development in Africa. Education remains a top priority for us in Edo State which is why over the last 8 years we deployed interventions to change the course of education in our State.

"We focused very intensely on fixing a comatose education system which we met when we came into office in 2016 and by investing substantially in basic education transformation

through our EdoBEST programmes. Today we are proud that the course of education in Edo State has now been redirected.

"We have ensured that our educational system meets the required standards in terms of capacity for the 21st century."

Obaseki continued: "The reforms of our education system remain one of our greatest legacies as a government. We are proud that over half a million children in Edo State are learning in our public school system and we are seeing learning

outcomes that equal what their peers are learning in other parts of the world, even as far as Europe and Asia as this gives me boundless joy and a great sense of accomplishment.

"I fought to tackle learning poverty and restore education at the foundation level in Edo State and it has continued to earn us global recognition as a state and we have become a model on how sub-national can properly utilise public funds to transform the education sector and drive productivity and economic growth.

"I have not traveled to Rwanda but know that the Rwandan President has sent people to Edo

State to understudy what we have done in education.

"It's not therefore surprising that a world-class institution like the Jesuit Order will choose its first site for a university in West Africa in Edo State. We are happy to welcome you. That is why we granted all the necessary waivers that you requested to ensure that this University takes off without hindrance.

"There is a levy that the government charges on development which is an access of N200 million and we have a waiver so they can proceed with work. I align with the projects and don't want a delay in the project.

The Nigerian Observer



...that the people may know

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**ECOWAS
okays design
for \$15bn
Lagos-Abidjan
Highway**

-Pg 3

Army chief says nation's security agencies under-resourced

● *lists manpower, funding, other factors hindering optimal performance*

BILL OKONEDO, WITH AGENCY REPORT

Nigeria's Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Taoreed Lagbaja, has listed challenges to do with funding, manpower, industrial base and poor understanding of security by Nigerians as factors militating against optimal performance by the service.

The Army Chief further said that every citizen should get involved in the security of lives and property in the country and not leave it to the security agencies alone.

Lagbaja made the presentation while delivering the 2024 distinguished personality lecture titled, "The Roles and Contributions of the Nigerian Army to National Development", or-

ganised by the Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ilorin.

He was represented by the Chief of Training (Army), Major General Sanni Gambo Mohammed.

The COAS said it was unrealistic for about two million security personnel to be expected to secure the entire Nigerian population of over 200 million.

Nigeria's security challenges include insurgency, militancy, armed robbery, banditry, kidnapping for ransom, herders' farmers clashes and cultism among others.

"There is an erroneous belief that security is to be provided and ensured without interruption only and exclusively by the security agencies, particularly Nigerian Army wherever de-

ployed," Gen. Lagbaja said.

"This has led to apathy on the part of the public who feel less concerned except when their safety is directly threatened by activities of antisocial elements. The Nigerian Army along with other security agencies is under resourced.

"In a country of over 200 million people it is unrealistic for security operatives totaling

around two million, including an army of just over 100,000 active personnel without a reserve force to secure the entire population."

The COAS, who said that the Federal Government was committed to recruitment of more hands in the army as promised, stressed that the Nigerian Army, along with other security agencies, is under-resourced.



LOYOLA JESUIT UNIVERSITY:

L-R: Commissioner for Education, Joan Osa Oviawe; Provincial Delegate, Jesuit Tertiary Education North-West Africa, Rev Dr. John-Okoria Ibhakewanlan; Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki; Secretary to the State Government, Joseph Eboigbe, and candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the September 21, 2024 governorship election, Dr. Asue Ighodalo, during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Loyola Jesuit University in Ewatto, Esan South East Local Government Area of Edo State, on Wednesday, September 25, 2024.

The Nigerian
Observer

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EDO BROADCASTING SERVICE RECRUITMENT 2024

EBS has a long and rich history that could be traced back to 1965 when the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) was established in the then Midwest Region of Nigeria. In September 1978, the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) which was earlier established to replace the NBC metamorphosed into Radio Bendel with a Television arm added in 1980 to complement its Service.

With the creation of Edo State in August 1991, the outfit became Edo Broadcasting Service. Its vision is to inform, Educate, Entertain the Public and become the Leading Credible Voice and Face of Edo State.

It's mission is to highlight Government's Programmes, Projects, and Activities; Leverage on existing Technology for Service Delivery and be a high – performing, financially viable, digitized State Public Broadcasting Corporation.

We are seeking a dynamic, innovative, dedicated and results-driven individual to fill the position of a General Manager.

Job Description:

The preferred candidate will lead a team of unit leaders to ensure that all Television and Radio brands and teams get the necessary support and resources to provide the group with up to date market intelligence and research information to facilitate sound business decision making and planning to meet business objectives.

Key Responsibilities:

Lead and develop broadcasting strategies (Television & Radio) to position Edo Broadcasting Service as the leading broadcasting media house;

Ensuring optimum performance in commercial, programming, in-house productions and news content generation;

Promoting innovation in programming, content, look and feel of the stations and exploring newer dimensions to attract clients and viewership;

Building constructive relationships and continuous management of stake-holder relations;

Ensuring that the work culture and working environment in broadcasting division is conducive to optimise employee productivity;

Identification of business enhancement projects and initiatives to grow revenue streams;

Using and capitalising on research and market trends analysis for business improvement;

Reviewing and approving content, supplier contracts while ensuring operational cost effectiveness.

Managing, developing and retaining creative talent for business sustainability.

Qualifications and Experience:

Academic: Master's degree in business management with focus in strategy, business research and development;

Experience: At least 10 years' experience in business development, preferably in media. Experience in digital broadcasting will be a key requirement for the role. Demonstrated leadership skills, Business Development as it relates to broadcasting proven record in strategy development and execution.

Skills:

Demonstrable record of passion and energy for results with a strong commercial acumen; Strong communication and presentation skills; Excellent people management and interpersonal skills.

Talent and performance -

To assign and review work progress

To obtain market data and intelligence for decision making
Financial: * Revenue generation vs targets

Cost management -

To prepare and control the broadcasting budgets Job Complexity
The preferred candidate is wholly accountable to the Board and ultimately the Governor for the decisions taken in broadcasting as a business agency within the communication ecosystem of the Edo state public service.

Must have a good knowledge of Working Relationships the following
Internal Contacts:

Board members

Board Committees

Must have a good knowledge of working relationships with External
Contacts:

Advertising Agencies and other direct advertisers

Content suppliers and producers

Media partners

Communications Authority

Government Regulators.

Consumers and other stakeholders

Location: Edo

How to apply for EBS Recruitment 2024

To apply, visit; <https://jobs.edostate.gov.ng/>

Application Closing Date: 2 weeks from the date of this publication.

Note:

All relevant credentials must be uploaded.

Required minimum years of experience in practical management of a Broadcasting organization and Business Development as it relates to broadcasting is 10 - 15 years.

NEWS

ECOWAS okays design for \$15bn Lagos-Abidjan Highway

JESSICA OSEBHOR

Members of the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) have approved the design for the \$15bn Lagos-Abidjan Corridor Highway Development Project.

The approval was given during a meeting in Lagos State.

The group also said it will initiate the procurement process for the project at its next meeting.

The meeting which was chaired by Nigeria's Minister of Works, Dave Umahi, discussed the project which

is expected to cost \$15bn and deepen regional economic integration.

The project is currently in its study phase, an indication that detailed research, planning, and design are still ongoing.

Highlighting the history and progress of the Lagos-Abidjan Highway Development Project, Umahi mentioned that the project, initiated in 2013, had received significant funding support from the African Development Bank.

He noted that the current meeting aimed to finalise and approve the design of the project,

as it was nearing a crucial stage where concrete steps towards implementation could be taken.

He noted that the heads of member states of ECOWAS have met to agree on the project and that various stages of development, including design, environmental impact assessment, and funding mechanisms, had been ongoing for the past 11 years.

On his part, the Minister of Roads and Highways, Ghana, Francis Boakye, emphasised the importance of infrastructure, particularly roads, in driving socio-economic development.

He highlighted how highways could facilitate trade, tourism, and economic activities, and cited the example of the United States' economic boom as evidence of this correlation.

Boakye emphasised the significance of the Lagos-Abidjan highway project in promoting economic integration within West Africa.

The Lagos-Abidjan Corridor Highway, scheduled to begin in 2025, is part of the greater Dakar-Lagos Corridor and one of the flagship priority development programmes of ECOWAS.

Bobrisky denies N15m bribery claims on invitation by EFCC

VICTOR OHONBA AND VICTORIA OSAGHAE

Controversial crossdresser, Idris Okuneye, aka Bobrisky, has refuted claims that unidentified officers of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) solicited a bribe of N15,000,000 (fifteen million naira) from him in exchange for dropping money laundering charges.

This follows an investigation into the matter by two Federal Government agencies, the Ministry of the Interior and the EFCC and invitations from the latter agency, to Bob Risky and another popular influencer, Martins Vincent Ote, also known as VeryDarkMan, to explain what they know about the matter.

On Tuesday night, popular influencer, Martins Vincent Ote, also known as VeryDarkMan, released the audio which was widely circulated across the country.

However, in an Instagram post on Wednesday, Bobrisky

described the audio as fake.

He wrote: "My attention has been drawn to a fake voice recording circulating on the internet that I paid EFCC 15 million naira and that I was never in prison."

"I didn't pay any EFCC money; it is a very big lie. I served my term in full and I came out. Discard any false information."

Bobrisky was released from the Kirikiri Correctional Centre on August 5 after six months behind bars.

A Federal High Court in Lagos had jailed him in April with no option of fine following his guilty plea to naira abuse charge preferred against him by the EFCC.

Earlier on Wednesday, EFCC Chairman, Ola Olukoyede ordered an immediate investigation into the allegations made against certain officers of the Commission.

The Commission formally invited both Okuneye and Ote to present themselves at the EFCC's Lagos Directorate to assist in the investigation.



FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS:

Nigeria's First Lady, Oluremi Tinubu (right), addressing a gathering at an event organised by the Stop TB Partnership on the sidelines of the ongoing 79th UN General Assembly in New York, USA.

Edo govt warns illegal revenue collectors to desist or face the law

FAVOUR ANETOR

The Edo State Government has lashed out against unscrupulous individuals parading themselves as agents of government and harassing and intimidating government-approved revenue collectors in the state.

The Secretary to the Edo State Government, Joseph Eboigbe, in a statement on Wednesday said that these corrupt individuals have reportedly been spotted at

the popular Benin Central Motor Park, market places, and other motor parks across the state, forcibly extorting vehicles drivers and traders under the guise of revenue collection.

The government warned the perpetrators of these illegalities to stop forthwith or face the full wrath of the law, saying its has accredited revenue collectors whose contracts with the state government has not yet ended.

"For the avoidance of doubt,

Edo State Government has accredited revenue collectors who have been duly mandated to collect revenue as approved by government in the various motor parks and market places. Their contract with the state government subsists till November 12, 2024," Eboigbe said.

"Edo State Government therefore warns all persons or group of persons perpetuating this act of brigandage to desist from it or face the full wrath of the law, as no

responsible government will fold its hands and allow unscrupulous persons create a state of anarchy.

"In light of the foregoing, government directs the law enforcement agencies in Edo State to arrest and prosecute any person involved in the act of extortion of commercial vehicle drivers and traders across the state or found disturbing the peace in motor parks and market places under the guise of revenue collection," he said.

New CJN, Kekere-Ekun, pledges to leverage ICT for speedy dispensation of justice

CAROLINE AMEH

The Senate has confirmed Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun as the Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), following the request by President Bola Tinubu on Tuesday, seeking that she be screened and confirmed for the position.

Justice Kekere-Ekun's appointment aligns with Section 231(1) of the 1999 Constitution, which empowers the president to appoint the CJN based on the rec-

after Senate confirmation

ommendation of the National Judicial Commission (NJC) and subject to Senate confirmation.

During her confirmation hearing, Justice Kekere-Ekun emphasised her commitment to modernising the judicial system through the use of information and communication technology (ICT). She stated that the current manual processes contributes to delays in legal proceedings, adding, "I will lever-

age ICT for most of our legal processes and ensure we do away with all analogue systems. We are going to digitalise our courts to meet up with the global best practices."

"We shall introduce virtual hearings to help in the justice delivery".

She also stated that they would eliminate certain processes that make the legal system cumbersome and time consuming.

"Heads of courts will be en-

couraged to weed out processes that delay justice delivery.

"We shall also promote Alternative Disputes Resolution (ADR) to help disengage our courts," she added.

The Senate's screening process was initiated with a procedural adjustment proposed by Senate Leader Senator Opeyemi Bamidele, allowing Justice Kekere-Ekun's hearing to be prioritised. She arrived at the Senate chambers at 12:30 PM, accompanied by other justices from the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal.

Performance to determine cabinet reshuffle, says Presidency

CAROLINE AMEH

A federal cabinet reshuffle is to take place soon, the Nigerian Presidency has confirmed.

The Presidency explained that the exercise will be evidence-based and that the president will be aided in his decision by public assessments backed by verifiable facts.

Mr. Bayo Onanuga, Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, made this known while addressing newsmen at the State House, Abuja.

Onanuga, said there is no timeline to when President Tinubu will reshuffle his cabinet which was inaugurated in August, 2023.

He disclosed that the President had indicated his plan to reshuffle his cabinet, but said he could not be categorical about when he will do it.

His words: "I don't have any timeline. The President has expressed his desire to reshuffle his cabinet and he will do it. I don't know whether he's going to do it before October 1, but he will surely do it. So that's what I will say. He has not given us any timeline he'll do it, but he will to do it. He has expressed his plan he wants to do it."

Shedding more light on the planned cabinet shake-up, Ogra explained that the President would be guided by an empirical process, making reference to the performance indicator, which is being coordinated by Special Adviser to the President on Policy Coordination and head of the Central Delivery Coordination Unit, Hajia Hadiza Bala Usman.

According to him: "We also need to realize that the President's decision to reshuffle is also based on empirical evidence. He has said it during the retreat for the ministers that they were going to have periodic reviews, and the decisions that are extracted

from these reviews will be used to make that final decision.

"I know he's gotten a couple of reports, and as Mr. Onanuga said, when he's ready to do that, I believe he will".

The President has also instructed his Ministers to actively promote the accomplishments of his administration.

According to Onanuga, President Tinubu directed the ministers to go out and publicize the administration's successes.

Said he: "The President has given an order to all his ministers at the last federal Executive Council meeting to go out there and speak about the activities of his administration."

"Some of them have been media shy, television shy, radio shy, and he wants them to overcome all that and go out there and speak about what they have been doing."

"Because the feeling out there is that government is not doing enough and the government has been doing a lot. It is up to them to go out there and blow their own trumpet. They should go out there and talk about what their ministries have been doing."

The Federal Government on Wednesday also washed its hands off the petrol pump pricing face-off between the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) and private refinery, Dangote Refinery, saying both parties are at liberty to determine their market prices for consumers.

Onanuga, who made government's position known to newsmen, explained that since the petroleum market has been deregulated, both Dangote and NNPCL, as oil refiners and marketers, are allowed to operate according to economic market forces and set their prices for petrol, also known as Premium Motor Spirit (PMS).