

**BEING AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE GOVERNOR OF ONDO STATE, ARAKUNRIN OLUWAROTIMI ODUNAYO AKEREDOLU, SAN, CON, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF 2023 APPROPRIATION BILL INTO LAW, ON WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2022 AT GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, AKURE**

**Protocol**

I consider it a singular honour and privilege to sign into law this day, the 2023 Appropriation Bill as duly considered and passed by the Ondo State House of Assembly as required by the 1999 Constitution, as amended.

On behalf of this Administration and our good people I must acknowledge the mercy and blessing of God on our journey so far. I also wish to thank Mr. Speaker, the Chairman and the Honourable Members of the House Appropriation Committee and all Honourable Members of the State House of Assembly for the speedy but indepth legislative consideration and approval of the 2023 Appropriation Bill. Such is the track record of integrity of our Sunshine Legislature!

By the signing of 2023 Budget, christened "Budget of Shared Prosperity" into Law, the requisite first step has thus been taken for the wellbeing of our State in 2023.

It is noteworthy to mention that the 2023 Budget which has just been signed into Law was prepared from the inputs garnered from our people during the Town Hall meetings with various stakeholders across the State. It was also based on the REDEEMED agenda which is our guide-post for the development of our State.

It is heartwarming to inform that recently, the National Bureau of Statistics, in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Endowment Fund (UNCEF) 2022 Multidimensional Poverty Index of States in Nigeria ranked Ondo State as the State with the least poverty index. This is a testimony that we are on track.

The Budget as signed has a total size of **₦275, 979,184,000.00** of this amount, **₦129,839 billion**, representing **47.05%**, is to cater for Recurrent Expenditure while the sum of **₦146,140 billion**, representing **52.99%**, is for Capital development. In line with the global best practices, we have strategically cut down the overhead costs and other miscellaneous expenses in order to free funds for developmental programmes and projects.

In broad view, the 2023 Budget packaged is made up of transformative infrastructural projects, inclusive socio-economic interventions in healthcare, education, job creation and empowerment, industrial enablers, among others, for our State.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are not unaware of the lean revenue from the Federation Accounts Allocation Committee (FAAC). But because of the pact we have signed with the people of this State, we will strive to logically implement the budget to the letter. It is in this wise, I solicit the understanding of the people of this State and enjoin them to pay their taxes. I also solicit the support of all the MEDAs particularly the revenue generating ones to cooperate with the State Internal Revenue Service in order to shore up the State's Independent Revenue that will engender growth and development of the State in the coming fiscal year.

Let me once again thank the leadership and Members of the Ondo State Assembly, the Members of the State Executive Council and the dedicated and conscientious technocrats who continue to improve on the existing standards and remain wonderful examples of loyal and professional public officials. You are an invaluable asset to our State!

My sincere appreciation also goes to a wide range of Ondo State indigenes who provided feedback and ideas on how government could work better and differently.

Finally, I wish to inform you that a copy of the Law just signed will be placed on the Ondo State portal [www.ondobudget.org](http://www.ondobudget.org) immediately after this ceremony.

Thank you and God bless you all.