

REMARK OF HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR OF ONDO STATE, HON. LUCKY AIYEDATIWA ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING INTO LAW, OF THE ONDO STATE 2024 BUDGET ON FRIDAY, 29TH DECEMBER, 2023

Protocol

In line with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, as amended, I am delighted today to give assent to the Ondo State 2024 Appropriation Bill which will provide the financial guidepost for the State's fiscal operation in 2024.

2. You will all recall that on Thursday, 21st December, 2024, I presented the 2024 Budget Estimates of **₦384b**, christened **Budget of Economic Resilience**, to the State House of Assembly for legislative consideration. The House, in its characteristic devotion to our people's cause, has painstakingly considered the Budget and passed same.
3. After extensive deliberation, the size of the approved Budget for 2024 stands at **Three hundred and ninety-five billion, two hundred and fifty-seven million naira (₦395,257,000,000.00)** only. Out of this amount, a sum of **Two hundred and twenty-two billion, two hundred**

and fifty-nine million, eight hundred and twenty-seven thousand, five hundred naira (₦222,259,827,500.00) only, representing **56.23%** is for Capital Expenditure while a sum of **One hundred and seventy-two billion, nine hundred and ninety-seven million, one hundred and seventy-two thousand, five hundred naira (₦172.997,172,500.00)** only, representing **43.77%** is to cover the Recurrent Expenditure.

4. I must thank Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Chairman and Members of House Committee on Appropriation and all Honourable Members for the detailed scrutiny and prompt passage of the 2024 Appropriation Bill. I must put on record that generally, this Administration has enjoyed a very cordial relationship with the Legislature and this has enabled us to deliver considerably on our promises to our people. This is a good legacy of our dear Arakunrin which must be sustained.
5. The Executive Arm of Government will put its shoulder to the wheel to implement the 2024 Budget with the

required probity and transparency it deserves. In pursuit of this, the 2024 Budget details will be made available on the Ondo State portal www.ondobudget.org, for access and monitoring.

6. As we keep implementing people-centered projects and programmes in line with our REDEEMED Agenda, we would continue to improve on our revenue drive while cutting down on our recurrent costs in view of the prevailing economic realities.
7. The focus of this Budget as said in my Budget Speech, is human capital development. Emphasis would also be placed on climate change, clean and sustainable environment, rural development and food security while on-going legacy infrastructural projects of our dear departed Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, CON would be completed. Furthermore, we would keep meeting our salary, pension and gratuity obligations to our serving and retired officers, as applicable.
8. I wish to therefore, solicit for the continuous understanding and cooperation of our people.

I understand the temporary pains occasioned by the

recent petrol subsidy removal. This Administration would continue to put measures in place to cushion the effects until we are able to weather the storm, hopefully shortly.

9. Finally, I solicit the prayers of all for the family of our departed beloved Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, CON and also for the government in this difficult moment. May God Almighty comfort the family and our State!
10. God bless our dear Sunshine State!
11. I wish you all a prosperous New Year!