

BEING AN ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ONDO STATE, HIS EXCELLENCY DR LUCKY ORIMISAN AIYEDATIWA ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE 2026 APPROPRIATION BILL INTO LAW HELD AT THE EXCOS' CHAMBER, GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, AKURE ON MONDAY, 29TH DECEMBER, 2025

PROTOCOL

It is with a heart full of gratitude to God Almighty and a deep sense of responsibility that I am here before you today on the auspicious occasion of the signing of the Ondo State 2026 Appropriation Bill, aptly tagged the "Budget of Economic Consolidation," into law. This ceremony is far more than a statutory requirement; it is a solemn reaffirmation of our collective commitment to the progress, stability and sustainable development of our beloved Sunshine State.

2. Let me begin by expressing my sincere and profound appreciation to the Honourable Members of the Ondo State House of Assembly, the 10th Assembly, under the distinguished leadership of the Rt. Hon. Speaker, Chief Olamide Adesanmi Oladiji. Your expeditious, meticulous and patriotic consideration of the 2026 Appropriation Bill clearly demonstrates a shared vision and a strong partnership in the service of the people who entrusted us with leadership. Your diligence has ensured that Ondo State will enter the New Year with a clear, credible and well-defined financial roadmap.

3. I wish to particularly commend the Chairman and members of the House Committee on Finance and Appropriation for the thoroughness and professionalism with which they scrutinised the budget proposal. I also acknowledge the unwavering dedication of the management and staff of the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, whose technical expertise and tireless efforts made the preparation of this comprehensive document possible.

4. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the 2026 Budget of Economic Consolidation is a strategic blueprint designed to respond effectively to prevailing national economic realities while positioning Ondo State on a path of self-reliance, resilience and enduring prosperity. It reflects our determination to consolidate earlier gains, strengthen key sectors of the economy and protect the welfare of our people.

5. You will recall that on Monday, 17th November, 2025, we presented a proposed budget of **Four Hundred and Ninety-Two Billion, Seven Hundred and Ninety-Five Million, Six Hundred and Sixty-Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty-Nine Naira (₦492,795,667,939.00) only** to the Ondo State House of Assembly. The House, in consultation with the various stakeholders, considered and passed a final budget of **Five Hundred and Twenty-Four Billion, Four Hundred and Ten Million, Five Hundred and Ninety Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty-Nine Naira (₦524,410,590,939.00) only.**

This comprises Recurrent Expenditure of ₦220,830,941,200.00 representing 42.11% of the total budget and Capital Expenditure of ₦303,579,649,739.00 which accounts for 57.89% of the total outlay clearly underscoring our strong commitment to infrastructure development and economic growth. To this end, the budget is formulated with the following sectoral distribution:

Agricultural Development:	₦29,672,860,500.00 (5.7%)
Trade and Industry:	₦8,722,243,000.00 (1.7%)
Education:	₦64,571,261,000.00 (12.3%)
Health	₦59,542,160,000.00 (11.4%)
Information:	₦5,524,300,000.00 (1.1%)
Community Development:	₦16,365,321,000.00 (3.1%)
Infrastructural Development:	₦144,476,991,000.00 (27.6%)
Environment & Sewage Management	₦8,735,168,000.00 (1.7%)
Regional Development:	₦15,514,905,600.00 (3.0%)
Administration of Justice:	₦20,577,090,000.00 (3.9%)
Public Finance:	₦95,112,539,839.00 (18.1%)
General Administration:	₦35,252,851,000.00 (6.7%)
Legislative Administration:	₦13,009,000,000.00 (2.5%)
Energy:	₦7,333,900,000.00 (1.4%)

6. The 2026 Budget is anchored on several key pillars such as Agriculture and Food Security, with targeted investments in modern

farming techniques, support for smallholder farmers and improved access to credit facilities to enhance productivity, profitability and food sufficiency. In the same vein, Human Capital Development and Skills Enhancement will be emphasised with priority given to education through schools renovations, teacher training and digital skills development. Also, Economic Transformation and Infrastructure Development, focusing on the completion and initiation of critical projects in roads, power and water supply to create an enabling environment for businesses to blossom. Notwithstanding, the drive to expand Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) through technology-driven, transparent tax systems, expansion of the revenue base and effective blocking of revenue leakages will be sustained.

7. Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, the successful implementation of this budget requires the cooperation and commitment of all stakeholders. I, therefore, charge all Ministries, Extra-Ministerial Departments and Agencies (MEDAs) to align their programmes strictly with the provisions of this budget and ensure the timely, prudent and efficient execution of all projects and services contained therein.

8. To the good people of Ondo State, this budget is for you. It represents a covenant between our government and the citizens of the Sunshine State - a promise of responsible governance and shared prosperity. I urge you to take ownership of this budget and actively

participate in the implementation of projects and programmes outlined therein.

9. As we bring this ceremony to a close, my heart is filled with immense gratitude. To the members of the Executive Council and all political appointees, I thank you for your unwavering dedication and commitment to the service of our dear State. To the Legislature and the Judiciary, I appreciate your indispensable partnership in deepening democratic governance. I also extend my sincere appreciation to our revered traditional rulers, religious leaders and political stakeholders for their continued efforts in fostering peace and unity across the State.

10. I must specially commend our security agencies for their courage and relentless efforts in combating crime and safeguarding lives and property. Your dedication has made Ondo State safe and secure. Let us all remain committed to nurturing and sustaining this hard-earned peace as we celebrate the Yuletide season and step into the New Year and beyond.

11. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the 2026 Appropriation Bill has now been signed into law. I, therefore, urge all stakeholders to join hands with our administration in ensuring its effective implementation, so that 2026 becomes a year of consolidation, growth and inclusive development for Ondo State.

12. Thank you all and God bless Ondo State.