

THE SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE GOVERNOR OF ONDO STATE, ARAKUNRIN OLUWAROTIMI ODUNAYO AKEREDOLU, SAN, CON, ON THE PRESENTATION OF THE 2023 BUDGET TO THE STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON MONDAY 5TH DECEMBER, 2022

Protocols,

I am much delighted to stand before this Honourable House today to present the 2023 Budget Proposals of our dear Sunshine State. This Budget represents the fiscal proposals for the third year of the second leg of our Administration, the APC-led government in the State.

2. Mr. Speaker Sir, I must use this auspicious occasion to thank the good people of Ondo State ably represented by this Honourable House, for their unflinching belief, confidence, cooperation and support on the journey so far. My appreciation knows no bounds for the abiding faith reposed in our Administration and its prosperity-driven initiatives, especially our extant development blueprint christened the REDEEMED Agenda.

3. In the like manner, let me express my profound appreciation to the Honourable Members whose devotion and commitment to the development of our State and the wellbeing of our people is legendary. I must put on record that in your dealings with the Executive Arm of government, you have eschewed petty grandstanding and self-serving

bickering which often characterize Executive-Legislative relationship in this clime.

4. The 2023 Budget being presented today is not only a mere statutory or constitutional requirement but another well-considered fiscal package to navigate year 2023, taking into consideration the prevailing and emerging micro and macro-economic parameters, nationally and globally. Our sectoral commitments are anchored on our REDEEMED Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

5. Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, our State having reasonably surmounted the Covid-19 scourge, we are, in the 2023 fiscal year, laying emphasis not only on recuperative programmes but also widening the horizon of the State's economic commanding heights for sustainable development and prosperity of our State and people. Therefore, 2023 Budget is titled **BUDGET OF SHARED PROSPERITY**.

6. Mr. Speaker, Distinguished Honourable Members, before I delve into the details of the 2023 Budget proposals, I wish to commend your passion and efforts in considering the 2023-2025 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and the Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP) as well as the passage of the 2022 Revised Appropriation Bill in response to the exigencies arising from the need to deepen security, infrastructural development and to cater for the vulnerable, all in our

bid to change the narratives and trajectories of our growth and development.

OUR SCORECARDS SO FAR

8. Mr. Speaker, you will recall that in our first term in office, we laid the foundation for growth and development through our 5-point agenda JMPPR that was then called the Blue-print to Progress. In order to concretize and build on those foundations, we have come up, in this second leg, with the REDEEMED Agenda, which has become our guide posts. I wish to say without equivocation that we have achieved some milestones with the REDEEMED Agenda:

i. **Rural and Agricultural Development**

9. Mr. Speaker, after Pay As You Earn (PAYE), revenue from Agriculture is the next contributor to the State's Independent Revenue (IR), and also the largest employer of labour in the State. In order to encourage this Sector to keep growing and at the same time make Ondo State remain the leading cocoa-producing State in Nigeria, we have distributed over one million Cocoa seedlings and other farm inputs to more than 100,000 cocoa farmers through the **Johnvents Industries Limited Cocoa Sustainability Programme**. Besides, Mr. Speaker, this Administration has also cleared over 10,000 hectares of land at Jugbere in Owo Local Government Area solely for the cultivation of cocoa. The outputs from this farm and many other

farms in the State would be able to feed the newly-revived Chocolate Factory in Idanre which now produces quality and rich chocolate that meet international standard.

ii. **Educational Advancement and Human Capital Development**

10. Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, as you know, we all Share the conviction and belief as a government, in the educational advancement of our State and its necessity for human capital development. It was on this basis, at the inception of this administration, that we drummed up support for functional education and technological growth, bearing in mind its importance to the socio-economic development of our State. To this end, we have, in the last few years, raised the standard of education and increased the enrolment level of pupils in our Primary and Post-primary Schools. This has been made possible by the construction of 238 blocks of classrooms, renovation of 490 schools, fencing of 127 schools, supply of 16,874 sets of pupils' furniture and 3,394 teachers' furniture, provision of 294 mobile laboratories and 131 ICT and instructional materials by this Administration. You will also recall that, in order not to have buildings without teachers, we went ahead to employ 1,200 teachers who were distributed among our Primary Schools in the State.

11. Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, as a listening government, we have started the payment of secondary school students' WAEC Registration fees which had earlier been stopped for paucity of fund, after popular demand from our people. To this end, the sum of ₦469.480m has been released in the current year, while a sum of ₦525 million is proposed in the 2023 fiscal year for same. Furthermore, over ₦2 billion will be committed to the renovation of facilities in our Post-primary schools across the State to replicate the level of rejuvenation being witnessed at the basic education level in the secondary and technical schools across the State.

iii. **Development Through Massive Infrastructure**

12. Mr. Speaker, our commitment to infrastructural development in the State has not waned since we came into power. To date, more than 450 kilometers of roads that cut across the length and breadth of the State have been completed while several kilometers are on-going, comprising both single and dual carriage ways. This has enhanced the beauty of our landscape and ensure free flow of vehicles in our cities. Few of the dualized roads include 'A' Division/Hospital Road, CBN/Bishop Court Road, Owo Township Road, Ikare Township Road, Shoprite/Oda Road and Oluwatuyi/Ijoka Road. Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members will be happy to hear that as those roads

are dualized, installation of the State-of-the-art Street lights are simultaneously done to lighten them up for the benefits of motorists and pedestrians at night.

13. Ladies and gentlemen, we are not unaware that the pace of some of our projects has slowed down in recent times. This is not unconnected with the global inflation occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic and further exacerbated by the Ukraine/Russia war which has impacted negatively on our economy as a nation with concomitant effect on our State finances. Therefore, we are conducting a clinical review of all on-going projects with a view to ensuring all the projects are completed within the lifespan of this administration. The additional cost is already included in the 2023 Proposal being presented today.

14. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, for many years, our farmers have been finding it difficult to transport their produce to the market for lack of roads connecting the rural areas to the cities where they can sell them. This has brought untold hardship to them and loss of revenue to government. In a bid to bring an end to this, the World Bank's assisted Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Projects (RAAMP) has earmarked 1,546 km rural roads for rehabilitation in more than 600 communities. The project which will commence any

moment from now, will also establish 9 agro-logistic hubs for the benefits of our farmers in the State.

15. Mr. Speaker, it will be recalled that, at the inception of this Administration, we informed our people of our Action Plan to lay a good foundation for sustainable water supply both in the rural and urban Communities. In pursuance of this goal, we immediately swung into action with our KAMOMI AKETI Water Policy by embarking on aggressive construction and rehabilitation of boreholes for rural dwellers, and the rehabilitation of dysfunctional water schemes in the urban areas.

The KAMOMI AKETI project, which is the arrow head of this policy has not only become the template of provision of rural water in Nigeria but it has been adopted beyond the Nigerian shores. In our resolve to equally achieve this feat in the urban water sector, Government has since embarked on massive investment in the restoration and expansion of existing urban water infrastructure across the State in order to provide water for all, in fulfilment of our campaign promise and commitment to the welfare of our people. Consequently, Oke-Igbo, Oba Akoko, Idoani, Okitipupa, Ilutitun and Araromi-Obu water supply schemes were rehabilitated to ensure provision of sustainable potable water supply to these communities and environs.

In furtherance of our commitment to the development of the water sector, the State government, through the Federal Government, has secured credit facilities from the French Development Agency(AFD) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), respectively for the rehabilitation of the Owena Multipurpose Dam and the rehabilitation of Owena-Ondo Road water supply scheme, along Ondo Road, to provide water for Akure city and five other Local Government areas of Akure North, Idanre, Ondo East, Ifedore and Ile-Oluji/Oke-Igbo. By the first quarter of 2023, construction/rehabilitation works and the provision of essential water appurtenances would have commenced.

Let me state, for the avoidance of doubt that, these restoration efforts remain key policy programmes of this Administration, as more and more communities will continue to benefit. Rehabilitation of other moribund urban water schemes not covered under the scope of the AFD/AfDB credit facility would be given priority attention, as efforts are ongoing to secure funding for these rehabilitation works too.

iv. **Efficient Service Delivery Development and Policy**

16. Mr. Speaker, the hallmark of any responsive administration is effective service delivery and high productivity. In order to bring this into the fore, our government through the office of Head of Service launched a reform package christened “Ondo Service Improvement Programme” (ODSIP). The programme is designed to address, and

indeed has been addressing, most of the dysfunctions plaguing the bureaucracy and repositioning the State Public Service for efficient service delivery.

17. Mr. Speaker, you will recall that we met a highly demotivated workforce with backlog of arrears of salaries unpaid. But, ladies and gentlemen, I am bold to say today that this government has committedly addressed this with only a little fraction outstanding which would be paid soon. For the umpteenth time, **let me reassure that this Administration will not leave any salary unpaid at the end of its tenure!** We are doing all within our power to improve the welfare of the State's Public Servants, deserving ones promoted as and when due; as much as practicable, payment of salaries and wages has been prioritised to reduce the pains of our workers; training and retraining of the workforce has been stepped up while we have deliberately desist from political interference in service matters. We are resolved to nurture our Bureaucracy in the path of professionalism to scale up its service delivery.

v. **Effective Healthcare and Social Welfare**

18. Mr. Speaker, we have launched the State Contributory Health Scheme, beginning with the Abiyamo Maternity and Child Health Insurance Scheme for pregnant women and children under 5. As we speak, more than 24,500 pregnant women and children are enjoying

the scheme. We have also extended it to the vulnerable as well as the public servants through the schemes called Basic Health Care Provision Fund Programme (BHCPFP) and Orange Health Insurance Scheme (ORANGHIS), respectively. While more than 19,500 vulnerable people have benefitted from BHCPFP, enrolment and data capturing of the State's Public Servants are currently on-going.

19. Mr. Speaker, in a bid to enable our University of Medical Sciences Teaching Hospital to rank among the best in the country, more health care givers are being employed to the facility. Currently, massive construction of modern facilities is on-going in the hospital. Also, in order to enable our people have access to un-adulterated drugs and minimise incidence of fake drugs, we have established the Drugs and Health Commodities Management Agency. This Agency will ensure uninterrupted supply of genuine drugs and health commodities in the State.

vi. **Maintenance of Law and Order for Adequate Security**

20. Mr. Speaker, other Honourable Members of this House, it is no longer news that insecurity in the form of banditry, kidnappings, terrorism, ritual killings, robberies, etc, has risen to a fearsome crescendo in our nation today. Our dear State has had her share of this evil which manifestly climaxed in the Owo Catholic Church attack of 5th June, 2022 where at least 40 people were killed and others

maimed for life. As part of measures to nip such incidence in the bud in our State, the Ondo State Security Network Agency otherwise called Amotekun Corps has been strengthened in personnel and equipment. Testimonies abound of the feats being achieved by Amotekun since its establishment. Farmers can now go to their farms without the fear of marauding criminal herdsmen. Mr. Speaker, you will also recall that, in our continuing efforts to protect the lives and property of our people, we have procured a number of security vehicles and other machinery for all the State's security agencies in this current year. I want to assure our Honourable Members and our people that we will stop at nothing to ensure that our people sleep with their two eyes closed and go about their lawful business without trepidation.

vii. **Energy, Mining and Sustainable Industries**

21. Mr. Speaker, in furtherance of our Cardinal Programmes, this Administration is working on the State's energy needs that will engender growth. Accordingly, we have created the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. The Ministry within the short period of its existence, has collaborated with the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) to facilitate the commercial use of Omotosho 2x15m Watts's Power Plant which was abandoned for many years. In like manner, the Ode Erinje Transmission Line, Omotosho-Epe Ajah 330KV D/C transmission line and Oshogbo-Benin 330KV D/C transmission line

at Oba-Ile have been completed to strengthen them and expand supply of electricity to our communities in the coverage areas.

22. Mr. Speaker, two years ago when we were inundated with complaints of arbitrary and excessive billing of our people, this Administration, in collaboration with this esteemed House, passed a Law establishing the Ondo State Electricity Regulatory Bureau. I am happy to inform you that the Bureau has achieved a lot within these 2 years of its existence, among which are:

- Facilitation of the completion of about three-year abandoned Rural Electrification Project at Oke-Iya Community and restoration of electricity supply to Igunsin Community in Akure North Local Government after four months of power outage;
- Facilitation of the Independent Electricity Distribution Network (IEDN) through regulations to supply electrical power to Ondo South Senatorial District that had been abandoned for over fifteen (15) years, among others. Work in this regard, will crystallize soon.

viii. **Digital Revolution and Entrepreneurship**

23. Mr. Speaker, when we came on board, we found out that many of our youths were unemployed and those of them that had certificate were unemployable on the basis of their not being ICT literate. In

order to enable those youths to have access to computer training centers where they could be trained for few months and obtain certificate that would boost their employability, we have established 5 computer training centers across this State. Thousands of our youths have taken advantage of this gesture.

Ladies and gentlemen, we did not stop at that, this Administration went ahead to establish the Ondo State Entrepreneurship Agency (ONDEA) to directly tackle the challenges faced by our entrepreneurs and micro and macro businesses in the State and instil entrepreneurial mind-set and culture into the people, particularly our youths, for them to be self-employed and become employers of labour.

24. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to inform you that in just 2 years of ONDEA, it has trained a whopping number of 9,068 of our youths and empowered them with:

- i. Business set-up kits for new SMEs;
- ii. Machinery/Equipment grant;
- iii. Digital and Tech skills;
- iv. Entrepreneurship development training scholarship;
- v. Start-up funding grant.

The ONDEA's effort has helped to create jobs, reduced unemployment and created new businesses that have been captured into our tax system for revenue generation, and has also reduced tensions and

youth agitations in our State, such that the latest Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics rated Ondo State as the State with lowest Poverty Rate in Nigeria. This is an evidence of our collective efforts.

PERFORMANCE OF THE 2022 BUDGET

25. Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, let me, for a few moments give a review of the budget performance of the out-going year. The 2022 Budget was tagged “**Budget of Economic Re-Engineering**” with a total budget size of ₦199.282 billion. In the Budget, while Recurrent Expenditure was ₦113.314 billion, representing 56.9% of the Budget, Capital expenditure stood at ₦85.968 billion, representing 43.1% of the total Budget size. The Budget was to be funded with ₦30.946 billion expected from the Internally-Generated Revenue and ₦98.103 billion from the Federation Accounts as well as a Capital Receipt of ₦82.553 billion.

26. Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, as a result of some unforeseen critical activities imposed upon the State Government by the escalating security challenges in the country and the new development in the economic space, both globally and locally which requires budgetary re-alignment, the Budget was re-ordered, though without a change in the initial Budget figure. This means that at the

end of the exercise, the same budget size of ₦199.282 billion was maintained with a corresponding amount as revenue.

27. Mr. Speaker, the cumulative revenue target for January to September, 2022 was ₦149.462 billion, and the total actual revenue receipts during the period was ₦110.445 billion, which represents 73.9% performance level. Ladies and gentlemen, as you are aware, the performance of expenditure is a function of the revenue inflow and the structural rigidities associated with some classes of expenditure which gives them preference over others. To that extent, personnel-related costs are first line charge, irrespective of the level of revenue inflow. And given the size of personnel costs, this leaves little for capital expenditure. By the end of September 2022, the sum of ₦32.410 billion has been expended on Personnel cost (i.e salaries and wages); ₦10.865 billion on running the activities of Government; ₦5.786 billion has been given to our tertiary institutions as Grants and Contribution and ₦10.143 billion paid to our pensioners as their gratuities and monthly pensions. As you all know, every government, the world over, owes one debt and the other and our case cannot be different. To that extent, in the first-nine month of this fiscal year, while we have expended the sum of ₦9.656 billion to service our debts, ₦5.975 billion has also been spent as Statutory Transfers to OSOPADEC, Ondo State Internal Revenue Service and Local

Government Joint Account Allocation Committee. The Capital expenditure was ₦31.698 billion as against ₦64.475 billion expected for the same period, resulting in a shortfall of 50.8% in capital expenditure earlier envisaged.

OVERVIEW OF 2023 BUDGET

28. As you may be aware, Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, Ondo State keyed into the State Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability (SFTAS) as well as the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Initiatives with the aim of enhancing efficiency and transparency in our financial processes. Flowing from this, we have continued to deepen the process of participatory budgeting which we started a few years back and has significantly increased the number and level of involvement of communities, civil society groups, private sector, youth organisations, artisans, farmers and other stakeholders in the preparation of the 2023 budget.

OBJECTIVE AND POLICY TRUST OF 2023 BUDGET

29. Mr. Speaker, this Administration has come up with a lot of ingenious programmes that have earned our State a number of accolades and recognitions. We will not rest on our oars and I promise to use this 2023 Budget to consolidate on those programmes that have put us in the limelight. To that extent, the followings are the objectives and policy thrusts of 2023 budget:

- i. attain financial resilience and sustainability through efficient, effective and sufficient revenue mobilization and administration;
- ii. optimize resource inflow in order to expand the fiscal space, nationally and internationally;
- iii. adhere to development policies and ensure fiscal discipline;
- iv. sustain human capital development through job creation and Social Service delivery;
- v. safeguard lives and livelihood in a secure environment;
- vi. stimulate rural economy and ensure shared prosperity;
- vii. increase effective and efficient healthcare delivery;

30. The above objectives are to be achieved by the deployment of the following strategies:

- i. Intensifying efforts on Independent Revenue Initiatives through automation and expanding the tax net through evidence-based tax administration;
- ii. Stimulating robust partnership and harnessing the public, corporate and private individual grants to boost the State's resources;
- iii. Leveraging Donor and Development Partners' Support in funding key Intervention Programmes;

- iv. Ensuring efficient public financial management through effective prioritization of policies and programmes in order to achieve development goals;
- v. Creating employment opportunities through agri-business and entrepreneurships;
- vi. Ensuring strategic intervention and support for businesses, the aged and youths and the vulnerable through Social Investment programmes;
- vii. Providing essential support to security agencies for crime prevention and control;
- viii. Prioritizing community-based infrastructure and stimulating rural economy through massive construction of rural amenities;
- ix. Reducing the State's recurrent expenditure and other associated cost of governance in order to free more fund for capital projects;

2023 Revenue Projection

31. Mr. Speaker, in our revenue projections for 2023 fiscal year, we are mindful of the challenges posed by revenue constraints in our quest to seamlessly accomplish our budget objectives. In this wise, we shall continue to encourage and sustain the current drive geared at improving our Independent Revenue (Internally-Generated Revenue), spear-headed by the Ondo State Internal Revenue Service. We are indeed pleased with the improvement recorded since their

engagement and hopeful that much more will be achieved in the months ahead.

32. Ladies and Gentlemen, the expected increase in the contribution of Independent Revenue to total revenue cannot be achieved in a day but gradually. Hence, revenue inflow from the Federation Account will still contribute the larger portion of the total collectible revenue for the State in the short run. Consequently, the projection of revenue in 2023 would largely be informed by some major macroeconomic assumptions contained in the MTEF and Fiscal Strategy Paper of the Federal Government. These assumptions are:

Item	2023	2024	2025
National Inflation	17.16%	16.21%	17.21%
National Real GDP Growth	3.75%	3.30%	3.46%
Oil Price Benchmark	\$70.00	\$66.00	\$62.00
Oil Production Benchmark (MBPD)	1.690	1.830	1.830
NGN:USD Exchange Rate (Benchmark)	435.57	435.92	437.57

33. Considering these key parameters and assumptions, it is envisaged that revenue will increase in 2023 compared to 2022 actual figures. In view of the foregoing, a total budget of ₦272.736 billion has been proposed for 2023 fiscal year. The breakdown of the revenue is as follows:

		₦	%
i. Statutory Allocation	-	35,298,844,991.00	12.94
ii. Independent Revenue	-	32,000,632,000.00	11.73
iii. VAT	-	25,128,948.522.00	9.21
iv. Mineral Derivation	-	18,499,522,348.00	6.78
v. Other FAAC Revenue	-	25,085,000,000.00	9.20
vi. Grants	-	18,246,200,000.00	6.69
vii Other Capital Receipt	-	3,750,953,000.00	9.06
viii Stabilization Fund	-	10,000,000,000.00	3.67
ix. Financing	-	<u>83,784,300,000.00</u>	30.72
TOTAL	=	<u>272,735,638,983.00</u>	100.00

34. The issue of fluctuating revenue from the Federation Account appears to be a perpetual syndrome since the advent of Covid-19 pandemic and it is being escalated by the Russia/Ukraine conflict. Notwithstanding, we are making concerted efforts to turn around the economic fortunes of this State through massive industrialisation. One of such efforts is the Ondo State Deep Seaport.

35. Mr Speaker and Honourable Members, I am happy to inform you that, after a very long wait, we are really at the verge of a breakthrough on this life-changing project after the Federal Government, through the Federal Ministry of Transportation has given a firm commitment to its actualisation in no distant time. In addition, we will continue to interface with relevant Federal Government Agencies to key into as

many as possible relevant socio-economic programmes considered beneficial to our people.

36. Mr Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen, our focus remains to change the economic development template of the State but the emphasis will be on programme linkages. We no longer need stand-alone visions, we need an integrated approach. Policies, programmes and projects from the various sectors will have to handshake with each other and build bridges towards the wholesome repositioning of the State economy.

2023 Expenditure Projection

37. On the expenditure details, Mr Speaker, we are conscious of the need to redirect our priorities to employment generating ventures and reflate the economy, appropriately. Therefore, the structure of the economy as we speak would require major reengineering so as to be able to allocate more funds for capital development. This we hope to achieve by the end of the 2023-2025 medium term such that, going forward, greater percentage of the Budget will be allocated to capital development. In the meantime, the 2023 expenditure allocation is as follows:

A. Recurrent Expenditure:	Amount N'B	%
i. Salaries and Wages	- 46,177,653,360.00	17.93
ii. Overheads	- 23,914,318,783.00	8.77
iii. Debt Repayment	- 14,078,140,122.00	5.16
iv. Grants and Contributions	- 13,701,220,000.00	5.02
v. Social Contributions and Social Benefits	- 13,145,400,000.00	4.82
vi. Statutory Transfers:	- 18,072,005,868.00	6.63

B. Capital Expenditure:

i. Capital Estimates - 143,646,900,850.00 52.67

TOTAL = **272,735,638,983.00** 100.00

38. Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, in line with the National Charts of Accounts which Ondo State had agreed to at the level of the Nigerian Governors' Forum, and which is also in consonance with international good practices, government functions in the State have been classified into 5 Sectors for better understanding. Therefore, the sectoral breakdown of the proposed Capital budget is as follows:

S/N	Sector	Capital Expenditure N'B	%
1	Administrative Sector	6,972,130,000	4.98
2	Economic Sector	100,432,943,620.00	71.73
3	Law and Justice	5,092,000,000.00	3.64
4	Social Sector	27,227,200,000.00	19.44
5	Regional Sector	300,000,000.00	0.21
	Total	140,024,273,620.00	100.00

39. The foregoing shows that the economic and social sectors have the highest budget proposals. This has to be so because they are the sectors that stimulate the economy and create jobs.

Conclusion

40. Mr. Speaker, I will not end this speech without, once again, appreciating you and your team for the atmosphere of peace and unity that exists between the Legislature and Executive. This would not

have been so but for your understanding and disposition to responsible and responsive governance and this has made the level of trust and confidence of our people in government to soar.

41. Mr Speaker, let me express my unalloyed appreciation to the Nigerian Police, the Department of State Security, the Army, Navy, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Ondo State Security Network otherwise called Amotekun and other paramilitary agencies for their efforts in restoring peace to our State after the daredevil attack on a church in Owo. I pray that the current relative peace in the State will not be truncated in Jesus' Name.

Our appreciation also goes to all our Traditional and Religious Leaders for their continuous support and prayers. Their unalloyed support for our programmes and policies have gone a long way in ensuring the successes we have recorded in the last seven years. We shall continue to count on your wise counsel to guide our path as we march forward toward achieving our goals. Our immense appreciation also goes to all our Youths, Trade Groups and Professional Bodies, Development Partners, Non-Governmental Organisations, Civil Society Organisations, the Press, Student Bodies, Artisans, Women Organisations and many others for their constructive criticism, suggestions and contributions during the 2023 Budget consultative meetings, most of which have added colour to this Budget and made

it robust. Let also thank our hard-working public servants for their understanding, cooperation and diligence.

42. Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and privilege to present the details of 2023 Budget Proposal and the Bill to this Honourable House, believing that it will be given an expeditious consideration.

Thank you all! God bless Ondo State! God bless Nigeria!