



**Consolidation &
Continuity '24**

**The
Manifesto**

ODODO
AHMED USMAN
FOR GOVERNOR

Table of Content

i. Foreword 4

ii. A New Chapter Beckons 6

1.0 Introduction 8

- 1.1 Our Vision for Kogi State
- 1.2 The New Direction Journey So Far
- 1.3 Consolidation and Continuity
- 1.4 Our Electoral Pact with Kogites

2.0 Good Governance and Leadership 10

- 2.1 Transparency and Accountability in Government
- 2.2 Strengthening Institutional Capacity
- 2.3 Citizen Engagement and Participatory Governance
- 2.4 Effective Policy Implementation and Performance Management

3.0 Infrastructure Development and Maintenance 12

- 3.1 Public-Private Partnership
- 3.2 Road Construction and Rehabilitation
- 3.3 Rural and Urban Development
- 3.4 Water Supply and Sanitation
- 3.5 Power and Energy Sector
- 3.6 Public Transportation
- 3.7 Digital Connectivity

4.0 Education and Human Capital Development 13

- 4.1 Quality Education for All
- 4.2 Teacher Training and Welfare

4.3 Technical and Vocational Education

4.4 Scholarship Programs

5.0 Healthcare and Social Welfare 17

- 5.1 Strengthening Our Primary Healthcare
- 5.2 Deployment of Adequate Manpower for Health Facilities
- 5.3 Expansion of Health Insurance Scheme
- 5.4 Focus on Maternal and Child Health
- 5.5 Healthcare and Support for Vulnerable Groups
- 5.6 Rehabilitation and Mental Health Services
- 5.7 Empowering Persons with Disabilities

6.0 Agriculture and Rural Development 19

- 6.1 Promoting Mechanized Farming
- 6.2 Agri-Business and Development of Agricultural Value Chain
- 6.3 Strengthening Farmers' Cooperatives
- 6.4 Land and Irrigation Development
- 6.5 Managing/Preventing Farmer-Herder Conflicts
- 6.6 Access to Finance and Markets
- 6.7 Crop and Livestock Improvement
- 6.8 Agricultural Extension Services

7.0 Security and Peacebuilding 21

- 7.1 Community Policing
- 7.2 Strengthening Security Agencies
- 7.3 Promoting Inter-Agency Cooperation
- 7.4 Conflict Resolution and Peace-building
- 7.5 Emergency Response and Disaster Management

7.6	Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders		11.2	Deployment of Internet Broad Band Access	
8.0	Women Empowerment and Gender Equity	23	11.3	Jobs for youth in ICT	
8.1	Women Empowerment Programs		11.4	Creation of Technology Hubs Promoting ICT and Innovation	
8.2	Gender Mainstreaming in Government		11.5	ICT Training and Empowerment for Youths	
8.3	Combating Gender-Based Violence		12.0	Youth Empowerment and Sports Development	31
8.4	Equal Opportunities in Education and Employment		12.1	Youth Inclusion in Governance	
8.5	Political Representation and Participation		12.2	Support for youth Entrepreneurship	
9.0	Environment and Sustainable Development	25	12.3	Strengthening of Youth Development institutions.	
9.1	Conservation and Biodiversity		12.4	Jobs for Youths in Agriculture	
9.2	Clean Energy and Climate Action		12.5	Jobs for Youths in ICT	
9.3	Waste Management and Recycling		12.6	Special Public Works Programs	
9.4	Environmental Education and Awareness		12.7	Grassroots Sports Development	
9.5	Green Infrastructure and Urban Planning		12.8	Upgrade of Sports Infrastructure	
10.0	Industry & Commerce	27	12.9	Promoting Sports Entrepreneurship	
10.1	Safe and secured Business Environment		13.0	Entertainment and Tourism Development	33
10.2	Solid Minerals Development		13.1	Commercial Development of Key Tourist Sites	
10.3	Revitalization of Ajaokuta Steel Company		13.2	Provision of Tourism Infrastructure	
10.4	Development of Confluence Free Trade Zone and Industrial Hubs		13.3	Supporting Creativity in the Entertainment Industry	
10.5	Oil and Gas Development		13.4	Promoting our Cultural Diversity	
10.6	Support for the Growth of MSMEs		14.0	Conclusion	34
10.7	Development of Standard Markets Places				
11.0	Information and Communications Technology & Innovation	29			
11.1	Leveraging Technology to Drive Governance				

Foreword

Ododo is set to take Kogi higher - GYB

Our New Direction Administration has achieved a lot in terms of infrastructural development, education, healthcare, agriculture, and security. We have constructed roads and bridges, provided electricity to many communities, revitalized the educational system, repositioned our healthcare system to provide quality and affordable healthcare to our people, and provided support to farmers to boost agricultural output in the State.

We have also made great strides in the area of security. We have invested in training and equipping our security agencies to effectively combat crime and



criminality in the State. The result is that we have been able to significantly reduce incidences of kidnapping, armed robbery, and other forms of criminal activities in the State. We will not rest on our oars until we achieve total security for all citizens in the State.

I am fully aware that success without a successor is merely delayed failure, which is why the GYB political family is working around the clock to ensure that our next Governor is not only one trained and conversant in the system, but somebody who possesses proven capacity to sustain and accelerate the pace of development that I have set over the last seven and a half years.

My Government, my Cabinet and our great party, the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Kogi State are united in our commitment to Consolidation and Continuity of the massive developmental strides which we have accomplished across the length and breadth of Kogi State. Accordingly, we have chosen a fitting flagbearer, practically a consensus candidate, for the 2023 Kogi State Gubernatorial Elections slated for November 11.

Our choice is Ododo Ahmed Usman. He is a seasoned professional and an innovative leader who helped to restore sanity to the State's Public Service and finances over the years. He is a silent reformer and one of the key operatives of our New Direction Blueprint. If there is anyone who will resolve the present conundrum we currently have with workforce and wages at all levels, it is him.

I assure you that Ododo Ahmed Usman is well-prepared for Governance. I have full confidence in his ability to make sure that the legacies of the New Direction Agenda continue to expand exponentially and to massively benefit every Kogite after I leave office on January 27th, 2024. I commend him to you and specifically request that you transfer to him the usual overwhelming electoral support which you have always given to me.

Yahaya Bello, CON
Executive Governor of Kogi State.



A New Chapter Beckons

My Fellow Kogites,

The forthcoming Gubernatorial Election presents us with another unique opportunity to elect new leaders, a Governor and Deputy Governor who possess requisite leadership skills to consolidate and continue the legacies of the incumbent All Progressives Congress (APC) Government led by our leader, His Excellency, Governor Yahaya Bello, which has redefined governance with trail blazing performance over the last seven-and-a-half years.

Our quest for your mandate to lead Kogi State is therefore premised on our genuine desire and unwavering commitment to deliver more visible, impactful, and equitable governance and further enhance the standard of living of our citizens in continuation of the outstanding achievements of the administration of His Excellency, Alhaji Yahaya Bello.

This document, which is our 'Consolidation and Continuity Manifesto', outlines the broad roles and strategic interventions that the Ododo Administration will implement to achieve our desired goals of delivering sustainable growth and development across all facets of our state's economy to improve life for all our people.

To accelerate our drive towards the overall growth and development of our state and her people, the Ododo Administration will focus intentionally on the following:

- Uphold the tenets of Good Governance by ensuring transparency, accountability, responsiveness, participatory government, and the rule of law.
- Invest massively in Infrastructure Development and institutionalize maintenance as a model for sustainability and durability.
- Sustain the Quality, Affordability and Accessibility of Healthcare at all levels for our citizens.
- Invest massively in Quality Education for All and targeted Human Capital Development to fast-track our development drive.
- Champion a statewide Agricultural Transformation Project to deliver quantum growth in our agricultural sector and create new jobs for our teeming Youths.
- Boost Security across the state and actively foster peaceful co - existence amongst our citizens across tribe, faith or class differences.
- Empower Women and decisively address Gender Based Violence in our society through gender equity and affirmative action.
- Promote Environmentally Sustainable Development through appropriate regulatory actions.
- Create and sustain a business - friendly environment to promote Commerce & Industry.

- Support the growth and development of ICT and Innovation through deliberate policy interventions and partnerships.
- Awaken and tap into the immense Tourism opportunities in Kogi State while also promoting Sports and Entertainment Development.
- Promote inclusivity for persons living with disabilities and indeed every individual resident in our society.

Our approach to governance will effectively deploy our abundant manpower to efficiently utilize our available material and financial resources. This will ensure that we achieve our strategic development goals, making our state prosperous to the benefit of all stakeholders.

I therefore solicit every Kogite to rally in our support as we undertake this exciting journey.

Thank you very much for your support.

ODODO Ahmed Usman

APC Governorship Candidate



1.0

Introduction

1.1 Our Vision for Kogi State

Our vision for a greater Kogi State is good governance as a catalyst for sustainable development and improvement in the general well-being of all our citizens.

We envision a state where government fulfills its role of creating an enabling environment for citizens to thrive and have access to essential needs of life including affordable healthcare, quality education, functional public infra-

structure, security of lives and property, and economic opportunities to earn decent livelihoods.

This Manifesto unpacks the 'Ododo-vision' to foster sustainable development, combat multidimensional poverty and accelerate shared prosperity.

1.2 The New Direction Journey So Far

The Yahaya Bello-Administration has achieved remarkable milestones in various areas such as security, health, education, road infrastructure, rural electrification, civil service reforms, internally generated revenue, and women and youth empowerment. These accomplishments have laid a strong foundation for the Usman Ododo-Administration to continue building upon.

Governor Yahaya Bello's visionary leadership also resulted in the ongoing creation of a 32-Year Development Plan for the state. This plan serves as a guiding compass for the state's growth trajectory into the foreseeable future. While the Kogi State 32-Year Development Plan is a strategic long-term development blueprint, the New Direction Blueprint Document outlines short-term development agendas for the state. These legacies of the Yahaya Bello-Administration will continue to provide guidance

for the growth and development of the state if effectively implemented.

Alhaji Usman Ahmed Ododo, the Governorship Candidate of the All Progressives Congress and the consensus candidate of the New Direction political family under the leadership of Governor Yahaya Bello, is fully committed to sustaining and building upon the outstanding achievements of the GYB-Administration.

He also has a lot of fresh perspectives on delivering good governance, some of which are highlighted in this Manifesto which is being expanded into a practical governance blueprint by a multidisciplinary team of professionals for ease of implementation.

If elected Governor of Kogi State, Ododo will diligently implement these strategic development plans to further accelerate the pace of growth and progress in the state.

1.3 Consolidation and Continuity

We recognize the value of continuity in sustaining ongoing projects, policies, and initiatives that have positively impacted the lives of the people of Kogi State. Our commitment to consolidation and continuity will ensure a

seamless transition from the outgoing administration to the incoming, avoid disruptions to ongoing progress and raise the bar on the established trajectory of development.

By building on the legacies of Governor Yahaya Bello's administration, we will harness the lessons learnt, capitalize on successful programs, and bridge any gaps to achieve even greater results.

We will ensure that no effort or resource goes to waste as we strive for a prosperous and inclusive Kogi State.

1.4 Our Electoral Pact with Kogites

In line with our vision for a greater Kogi State which is centered on good governance as a catalyst for sustainable development and improvement in the general well-being of our citizens, we hereby present this Manifesto as our electoral pact with the good people of Kogi State.

This Manifesto highlights key priority areas where the Ododo Administration will further deliver tangible dividends of democracy to our people. We assure every Kogite that our administration will do its utmost to implement the lofty initiatives presented herein.



2.0

Good Governance and Leadership

Good Governance is central to the effective and efficient utilization of public resources to promote sustainable development and achieve the greatest good of the greatest number of citizens. It embodies transparency, accountability, participatory governance, inclusivity, the rule of law, and responsive governance.

As earlier stated, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo's vision for a greater Kogi State is centered on good governance as a catalyst for sustainable economic development and the general well-being of the citizens. Therefore, the Ododo Administration will wholly embrace the following policies to promote good governance:

2.1 Transparency and Accountability in Government

Our Administration will ensure transparency and openness in government, while promoting accountability to the people.

To promote openness, transparency, and accountability, we will enhance our Electronic Governance System – KOGAS (Kogi Open Government and Accountability System) for improved service delivery, citizen engagement, and access to information.

We will also conduct regular audits and publish reports to ensure accountability and fiscal responsibility in government:

2.2 Strengthening Institutional Capacity

To strengthen the capacity of our public institutions to perform effectively, we will promote continuous training and capacity development in the Civil Service. We will also focus on improving the civil service welfare package and rewards systems to enhance performance.

To sustain the continuous development of knowledge and skills in the Civil Service, we will establish a Good Governance Institute to train all Government Officers and Civil Servants to embrace the tenets of good governance.

We will also promote the independence of judiciary and ensure timely dispensation of justice and strengthen the legislative arm of government for effective oversight and representation.

2.3 Citizen Engagement and Participatory Governance

Our approach to governance will promote and encourage citizen engagement and participation in government.

Through regular interface with our citizens via physical and electronic channels, we shall obtain feedback regarding their needs, impact of government policies and activities, and their recommendations for effective government.

2.4 Effective Policy Implementation & Performance Management

To achieve the desired result of our strategic initiatives, we will develop a robust framework for the implementation of government policies, programs, and projects with clear timelines and performance indicators. This will serve to address the real and perceived lax attitude in government by ensuring that agencies of government become highly performance driven and responsive.

We will engage stakeholders and local communities in the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of policies for grassroots participation.

Furthermore, we will regularly evaluate the impact of policies and make necessary adjustments for optimal outcomes.



3.0

Infrastructure Development and Maintenance

Our Administration will focus on providing more functional public infrastructure across the state while ensuring that existing ones are well maintained.

We will pay particular attention to the following areas in meeting the critical infrastructural needs of our people:

3.1 Public-Private Partnerships

We will promote Public-Private Partnership (PPP) funding options for critical infrastructural development across the state by unlocking the commercial potentials in some of the infrastructural projects.

We will facilitate investment-friendly policies and incentives to attract local and foreign investments for infrastructure development in the state. Furthermore, we will create a one-stop investment center to streamline processes and provide support to prospective investors.





3.2 Road Construction and Rehabilitation

Our government will prioritize the construction and rehabilitation of rural and urban roads to improve connectivity, promote commerce, and ease transportation challenges across the state in an equitable manner.

To address the challenge of funding for our road project, we will explore innovative financing models, such as public-private partnerships to accelerate the delivery of viable road projects in a sustainable manner.

We will also implement sustainable road maintenance programs to ensure the longevity of our road infrastructure and provide jobs across the state.

3.3 Rural and Urban Development

We will implement integrated development plans to address infrastructural deficits in our rural areas to enhance the quality of life for rural dwellers.

Particularly, we will gear up efforts to provide basic amenities, including electricity, water supply, and waste management services, in both urban and rural areas.

In addition, we will promote the development of affordable housing schemes in partnership with the private sector to address housing deficit in our urban areas.

3.4 Water Supply & Sanitation

Our government will implement comprehensive water supply and sanitation programs to ensure access to potable water across the state.

We shall upgrade and expand existing water treatment plants and reticulation for major cities in the three senatorial districts, particularly for locations with perennial water shortage.

3.5 Power and Energy Sector

We shall collaborate with relevant agencies to enhance electricity generation, transmission, and distribution in the state to improve access to reliable and affordable power for businesses and households.

We will forge public-private partnerships to explore the abundant coal deposit in the state to develop mini-grids and off-grid power solutions to reach underserved communities.

We will promote the adoption of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind to diversify the energy mix and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

To improve efficiency and reduce energy losses we will invest in energy infrastructure and smart grid technologies.

3.6 Public Transportation

We will improve public transportation in the state through the provision of functional and affordable mass transit systems within our major cities. Similarly, we will resuscitate the Confluence Express Services to provide safe, affordable, and reliable interstate transport services for our Citizens under a robust public, private partnership arrangement.

Furthermore, our administration will partner with the Local Government Administration and the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) to upgrade and modernize existing motor parks across the state for improved services and job creation.

3.7 Digital Connectivity

We will adopt a strategy to provide broadband digital infrastructure to improve internet access and connectivity across educational institutions, government facilities and public spaces in the state.

We shall promote the adoption of digital technology in governance, education, healthcare, and business sectors. We will also set up digital innovation hubs and provide training programs to empower youth in digital skills and entrepreneurship in every local government in the state through strategic partnerships with the private sector.



4.0

Education and Human Capital Development

The cardinal role of quality education in empowering individuals for productive lives is invaluable, therefore the provision of quality education is fundamental for creating a peaceful and prosperous state.

The Ododo Administration will consolidate on the legacies of Governor Yahaya Bello in the education sector by strengthening our existing educational institutions from primary to tertiary levels across the state.

Our key focus shall be to ensure the provision of free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education for every child in the state. We shall also promote the resurgence of Technical and Vocational Education for manpower and skills development.

Furthermore, we shall ensure that our Tertiary Educational Institutions provide world class education to prepare our youths for a highly productive and rewarding future.

4.1 Quality Education for All

In line with Sustainable Development Goals 4 (SDG-4), our government will continue the strategic improvement of educational infrastructure across the state in a sustainable manner such that every child can easily access quality education regardless of their location.

We will enhance curriculum delivery standards through investments in information and communications technology to propel our primary and secondary education to greater heights by achieving visible improvements in our national ranking in education.

We will ensure that our educational system promotes inclusive education by catering to the needs of children with special needs.

4.2 Teacher Training and Welfare

To enhance the output of Teachers and their job satisfaction, we will pay serious attention to Teachers continuous professional development through regular training and capacity development programs.

We will also Improve the welfare of teachers through competitive remuneration, housing schemes, and health insurance coverage.

We will strengthen our quality assurance mechanisms to ensure accountability and performance of instructors on the job.

4.3 Technical and Vocational Education

By focusing on the resurgence of Technical and Vocational education, we will open a vista of opportunities for our youths to acquire practical skills relevant to the job market and promote entrepreneurship development.

To this end, we will revitalize our state-owned Government Technical Colleges in Ankpa, Idah, Oboroke and Mopa for improved service and impact.

In addition, we shall introduce deliberate measures to connect our technical institutions to industries for student internships to enhance practical training and job placement opportunities.

4.4 Scholarship Programs

We will implement merit-based scholarships to encourage and support talented and deserving students in their pursuit of higher education.

To further expand scholarship opportunities, our government will collaborate with private organizations and philanthropists to create an educational endowment fund through which educational financial support can be accessed by students from disadvantaged backgrounds.



5.0

Healthcare and Social Welfare

In line with Sustainable Development Goal-3 (SDG-3), the Odo-Administration will focus on achieving Universal Health Coverage for All in Kogi State by consolidating on the lofty achievements of the Yahaya Bello-Administration in the Health Sector.

We shall effectively manage the various newly built or renovated secondary healthcare facilities by the outgoing administration across the state to ensure that our citizens continue to access quality healthcare at affordable cost and continue to benefit from the huge investment made by the government in those health facilities. In addition, we shall revitalize our Primary Healthcare Centres across the state to cater to the primary healthcare needs of our people at the grassroots in a timely manner.

We shall pursue our goal of ensuring aim of providing accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare to our citizens by deploying the following strategies:

5.1 Strengthening Our Primary Healthcare

We shall set up and adequately equip one Model Primary Healthcare Centre in each of the 239 Political Wards in the State to meet the primary healthcare needs of citizens at the grassroots.

In addition, we will provide essential drugs and improve the supply chain management system for efficient health-care service delivery in the state.

5.2 Deployment of Adequate Manpower for Health Facilities

We will ensure the deployment of optimal number of healthcare personnel to our healthcare facilities across the state. In addition, we shall deploy Information and Communications Technology to provide Tele-Medicine to bridge the gap in manpower where possible.

5.3 Expansion of Health Insurance Scheme

We will work to increase awareness and enrollment of citizens into the Kogi State Health Insurance Scheme to benefit from the ease of access to affordable and quality healthcare that the scheme offers.

We will also expand the health insurance scheme to capture vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, pregnant women, and people with disabilities.

Furthermore, we will collaborate with healthcare providers to ensure quality service delivery across the state and particularly under the state's health insurance scheme.

5.4 Focus on Maternal and Child Health

We shall pay special attention to maternal and child health care to further reduce the rate of maternal mortality, neo-natal mortality, infant mortality and under-5 mortality in the State.

All our Primary Healthcare Centres will be equipped to treat mild cases of maternal and child health needs before they fester, thereby preventing avoidable fatalities due to lack of timely healthcare.

5.5 Healthcare & Support for Vulnerable Groups

The care for vulnerable persons in the society is one of the hallmarks of a functional system. Our government will implement social welfare programs to support vulnerable groups, including orphans, persons with disabilities, and the elderly.

We shall set up mechanisms to collaborate with the Federal Government to ensure proper implementation of the National Social Investment Program for maximum impact on beneficiaries to alleviate poverty and improve livelihoods across the State.

5.6 Rehabilitation and Mental Health Services

We will enhance mental health services through the establishment of counseling centers and promote awareness through public enlightenment education campaigns for the society not to stigmatize mental illness.

We will collaborate with relevant agencies and stakeholders to address substance abuse and addiction issues through prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation programs.

5.7 Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

We will consolidate on the achievements of the Yahaya Bello Administration in promoting the rights of Persons with Disabilities by ensuring inclusivity for citizens in this category.

We shall further equip the Kogi State Office for Disability Affairs to empower Persons with Disabilities to be productive citizens in our society while doing everything necessary towards addressing various forms of impediments to their ability to thrive in the society.



6.0

Agriculture & Rural Development

The Ododo-Administration plans to implement a visionary and audacious agricultural transformation program that will bring about exponential growth in our agricultural output and create more jobs and agro-entrepreneurs in the sector. This will make agri-business more appealing to the younger generation who are mostly tech savvy.

Similarly, our government will promote rural development to make living in our rural areas safer and more conducive for agricultural productivity.

We shall deploy the following strategies to achieve the above aims:

6.1 Promoting Mechanized Farming.

We shall promote mechanized farming by making farm equipment such as tractors easily accessible to small holder farmers through partnerships with the private sector for the management of the State's fleet of tractors for effective service delivery.

Furthermore, we shall partner with other relevant agencies to provide farmers with access to modern farming technologies and farm inputs.

6.2 Agri-business and Agricultural Value-chain Development.

We will promote the development of agricultural value-chain for items in which we have comparative advantage such as Cassava, Rice, Oil Palm and Cashew-Nuts through partnership with the private sector to establish processing facilities and create market linkages for the items.

6.3 Strengthening Farmers' Cooperatives.

We shall strengthen farmers cooperatives and partner with them for massive clearing of farmlands across the state to boost crop production. This will help reduce the burden and adverse effect of manual soil preparation on farmers.

6.4 Land and Irrigation Development

We will partner with development institutions to develop irrigation infrastructure to improve crop production and

reduce farmers dependence on rain-fed agriculture, while also promoting sustainable land management practices to mitigate soil erosion and land degradation.

We shall facilitate land regularization processes to ensure secure land tenure for farmers.

6.5 Managing/Preventing Farmer-Herder Conflicts

We shall work to eliminate farmer-herder clashes through the modernization of live-stock farming for greater productivity and better returns on investment for the pastoralists.

We shall also work with our local security structure to provide early warnings about any impending Farmer-Herder clashes in the state for prompt and peaceful resolution.

6.6 Access to Finance and Markets

We will work with Cooperative Societies and Farmer Associations to enhance access to finance to boost their agri-business and markets.

We will also promote the establishment of agro - processing industries and facilitate access to local and international markets through collaboration with relevant agencies.

6.7 Crop and Livestock Improvement

To enhance the yield of farmers, we will partner with relevant agencies to make high-yield and disease-resistant crop varieties available to our farmers ahead of planting seasons.

Similarly, we will implement livestock improvement programs through breed improvement, veterinary services, and disease control measures.

In addition, we will work to promote sustainable agricultural practices, including organic farming and agroforestry, to ensure environmental sustainability.

6.8 Agricultural Extension Services

We will actively strengthen agricultural extension services to provide farmers with technical knowledge, best practices, and market information.

To promote practical agriculture knowledge sharing, we will encourage educational institutions to establish demonstration/school farms across the state.

We will also collaborate with research institutions and universities to facilitate technology transfer and innovation in agriculture.



7.0

Security and Peace-building

Just like the outgoing Administration of Governor Yahaya Bello, the security of lives and property of every resident of Kogi State shall remain a top priority of the Ododo-Administration. No effort will be spared to ensure that Kogi is free from all forms of security threats.

Our government will support and work closely with all Federal Security structures to arrest and surmount all forms of security threats in the state. As a corollary to this, we shall work with Traditional Rulers and institutions to

promote peace-building in their domains to ensure that tranquility reigns across Kogi State.

We shall deploy the following strategies to achieve the above aims:

7.1 Community Policing

We will strengthen our local policing arrangement - the Kogi State Vigilante Service and the Hunters Group for enhanced security and crime prevention. We will foster collaboration between the security outfits and community leaders to enhance trust and information sharing.

7.2 Strengthening Security Agencies

We will provide logistics support for federal security agencies in the State (i.e., Police, Civil Defense, Army, Navy, Air Force, DSS, NDLEA & Customs) to enhance their effectiveness in combating crime and criminal tendencies of all shades including kidnapping, highway robberies, bank robberies, drugs, cyber-crime, and cultism.

7.3 Promoting Inter-Agency Cooperation

To achieve synergy among the various security forces in the fight against crime, we will promote inter-agency cooperation and facilitate intelligence gathering and

sharing to proactively arrest emerging security threats within the state.

7.4 Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding

To promptly address some of the common root-causes of conflicts in our society, we shall foster inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue to promote understanding, harmony, and social cohesion.

Furthermore, we will establish early warning systems and rapid response mechanisms to mitigate potential conflicts and violence.

We will collaborate with traditional institutions and community-based organizations to enhance their capacity to promote peaceful co-existence and avert conflicts in their communities.

7.5 Emergency Response and Disaster Management

We will improve the emergency response and management capabilities of relevant government agencies such as the State Fire Service and the State Emergency Management Agency to complement the efforts of Federal Agencies in disaster management.

While our goal will be to minimize the number of citizens who may suffer from the adverse effects of natural disasters in the state, we will promptly provide relief and support services to affected citizens and communities during and after natural disasters or other emergencies.

7.6 Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders

We will collaborate with security agencies and relevant stakeholders, particularly youth focused organizations and NGOs to implement proactive measures to address the root causes of crime.

We shall also establish rehabilitation centres to rehabilitate and reintegrate offenders into the society to avoid recidivism or sliding back into re-offending.



Women Empowerment and Gender Equity

8.0

In line with the trail-blazing exploits of Governor Yahaya Bello's Administration in empowering women in politics and governance, the Ododo-Administration will further uplift our women by consolidating upon his achievements through the following initiatives:

8.1 Women Empowerment Programs

We shall implement programs to empower women economically, socially, and politically.

To promote women entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, and empowerment, we will facilitate access to finance and business support training for women entrepreneurs to grow their trade.

To address the imbalance of gender in politics and leadership, we shall promote and encourage women participation and inclusion in leadership positions and decision-making processes.

8.2 Gender Mainstreaming in Government

We will promote gender-responsive policies and practices in all government institutions and programs. To this end, we shall put in place structures and processes that ensure the effective participation of women in governance and decision making in key institutions in the State.

8.3 Combating Gender-Based Violence

The Ododo-administration will be a strong voice against gender-based violence in Kogi State. We will fully imple-

ment laws and policies to address gender-based violence and ensure the protection of victims.

To stem cases of gender-based violence, we shall conduct public awareness campaigns to change societal attitudes and promote gender equality and respect.

We shall establish support centers and safe spaces for survivors of gender-based violence.

Similarly, we will work with relevant federal agencies and NGOs to establish rehabilitation centers and support systems for victims of abuse and human trafficking.

8.4 Equal Opportunities in Education and Employment

Our administration will be intentional about promoting the importance of girl-child education through deliberate policy measures to increase school enrolment. We will work to eliminate gender disparities in access to quality education and promote girls' enrollment and retention in school.

We will provide scholarships and mentorship programs for girls and women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses to encourage more talented females students to offer science and technology subjects.

8.5 Political Representation and Participation

We will actively promote the involvement of Kogi Women in Politics and Government through appointments to leadership positions at the State levels.

We will equally advocate for gender quotas and inclusive electoral systems through our political party structure to increase women's representation in political offices.

We will also provide mentorship and training opportunities for women across the state.



9.0

Environment and Sustainable Development

The Ododo-administration will prioritize and promote the concept of sustainable development (Sustainability) in all aspects of governance, including economic, social and the environment, this is because we understand that embracing Sustainability as a government will help us focus on how to responsibly meet our societal needs today, without jeopardizing our tomorrow or that of future generations.

Upon assumption of office, we shall implement policies to promote sustainability in the following areas:

9.1 Conservation and Biodiversity

We will strengthen environmental laws and regulations for sustainable forest resource management. To this end we will implement reforestation and afforestation programs to avert desertification and restore depleted forests and degraded lands.

We will also implement policies to preserve our natural resources, including forests, wetlands and wildlife conservation.

9.2 Clean Energy and Climate Action

To reduce the impact of environmental pollution, we will promote the adoption of renewable and clean energy sources such as Solar. We will also promote a shift away from the use of firewood and charcoal to Liquefied Natural Gas (a cleaner energy source) for domestic cooking.

We will raise awareness on the devastating impact of climate change as a result of man-made activities to enlighten our citizens to embrace sustainable development principles.

9.3 Waste Management and Recycling

Our current solid waste disposal practices across the state will be modernized to promote sustainable methods of waste disposal and recycling which will help to create jobs. In view of this, we will establish effective waste management systems for proper waste disposal and recycling.

9.4 Environmental Education and Awareness

We will create awareness on the need for citizens to embrace sustainable practices in the best interest of our people and the environment. This is very important because the survival of humanity depends on environmental sustainability.

We will also engage community-based organizations (CBOs) to participate in environmental sustainability stewardship programs.

We will ensure that our educational institutions introduce the concept of Sustainability into their academic curriculum so that students can appreciate this important aspect of life early enough and embrace it.

9.5 Green Infrastructure and Urban Planning

We shall incorporate green spaces and recreation parks into our urban planning and promote tree planting in our towns and cities to improve the environment.

We shall also promote green building practices and energy-efficient infrastructure.

Our goal is to promote the development of green, smart, and resilient cities that prioritize environmental sustainability.



10.0

Industry and Commerce

Kogi is the most centrally located state in Nigeria, sharing borders with 9 other States and Abuja – the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). Our strategic location in the country and natural mineral endowments are invaluable resources which the Ododo-administration will harness to promote industries and commercial activities for the benefit of our People.

We will create a conducive and business-friendly environment to attract more private investments to accelerate the pace of industrialization and commerce in the state through the following strategic initiatives:

10.1 Safe and Secured Business Environment

As earlier stated, we will ensure that the security and safety of lives and property of every resident of Kogi remain the top priority of our administration, this is cardinal to other initiatives such as infrastructural development and promoting a business-friendly environment to attract investment to the state.

10.2 Solid Minerals Development

We will implement measures to give traction to the commercial development of our abundant solid mineral resources including limestone, marble, coal, iron ore, gold, and crude oil through partnerships with capable private sector investors and in collaboration with the Federal Government where necessary.

Our goal will be to replicate productive ventures like the Obajana Cement Company, Geregu Power Plant and Ajaokuta Steel Company to develop our natural mineral resources.

10.3 Revitalization of Ajaokuta Steel Company

The Ajaokuta Steel Company holds too many promises for Kogi and Nigeria to be abandoned and forgotten. Our goal will be to work assiduously with President Bola Tinubu-led Federal Government to activate the Steel Company within the early period of his administration.

10.4 Development of Confluence Free Trade Zone and Industrial Hubs

To promote industrialization and commercial activities in the state, we will develop the Confluence Free Trade Zone and other Industrial and Commercial clusters with world class physical and social infrastructure to host medium and large-scale manufacturing and commercial ventures.

The Free Trade Zone and other Industrial Hubs will accelerate the development of industries in the state as it will offer a lot of valuable incentives to investors to situate their ventures in the state.

10.5 Support for the Growth of MSMEs

We will actively promote the growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by implementing business-friendly policies. We will work with Trade Cooper-

atives across the state to provide capacity development and collaborate with relevant agencies to provide access to funds for MSMEs where necessary.

10.6 Development of Standard Market Places across the State

We will promote commerce in the state through strategic expansion and modernization of local markets and trading places across key cities and towns.

10.7 Oil & Gas Development

As the first State in Northern Nigeria to become an oil producing state, we shall make it our cardinal priority to develop crude oil exploration and exploitation in the state through partnership with the federal government and key private sector investors.

We shall leverage on the existing network of Petroleum and Gas pipelines which currently traverse the state to promote the establishment of a Petro-Chemical Refinery under a PPP arrangement to create employment for our youths and further boost our internally generated revenue.



11.0

Information and Communications Technology & Innovation

The critical role of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in enabling virtually every sector of the economy cannot be over-emphasized.

The Ododo-administration will work to expand the ICT space in Kogi State, first by running a digital administration. Similarly, ICT will be deployed to other aspects of governance including security, education, health, revenue services, agriculture, and transportation.

We will work to promote ICT and broadband access in the state for the benefit of our citizens through the following initiatives:

11.1 Leverage Technology to Drive Governance

Our government will deploy information and communications technology to improve efficiency, transparency, and service delivery across all government institutions.

11.2 Deployment of Internet Broad Band Access

We will partner with Telecommunications Companies to deploy Broad Band Internet across strategic government facilities including educational institutions, health facilities and other public spaces.

11.3 Jobs for Youths in ICT

Our adoption of digital governance will create ICT roles in government institutions to be filled by tech savvy youths, hence creating jobs for youths.

11.4 Creation of Technology Hubs

We will partner with relevant federal agencies to set up ICT/ Innovation Hubs and Libraries across the state to promote innovation and empower the youths.

11.5 ICT Training and Empowerment for Youths

We will partner with relevant organizations to provide regular ICT Trainings for our youths to develop their capacity and acquire relevant ICT skills for the employment market.





12.0

Youth Empowerment and Sports Development

The Ododo-administration will accord special attention to the inclusion of Youths in Government at all levels. We will prioritize youth engagement and create an enabling environment to foster youth creativity, capacity development and entrepreneurship.

Similarly, our administration will prioritize the development of Sports as a productive sector with the capacity to provide gainful employment for talented youths.

To achieve our twin-goal of youth empowerment and sports development, we will pursue the following strategic initiatives:

12.1 Youth Inclusion in Governance

We will consolidate on Governor Yahaya Bello's legacy of Youth inclusion in Government by appointing young men and women with requisite skills and energy to drive our development agenda.

12.2 Support for Youth Entrepreneurship

We will initiate regular capacity development programs to build entrepreneurship skills amongst our youths.

We will work with relevant agencies and institutions to enhance ease of access to capital, grants and other resources required to aid our youths start and grow their businesses.

Similarly, we will promote youth entrepreneurship through the simplification of business registration processes and tax incentives for youth owned businesses.

12.3 Strengthening of Youth Development Institutions

We will strengthen our youth development institutions to function optimally and make visible impact in youth development. We will regularly assess the performance of such agencies to ascertain their impact and implement necessary changes that may be required to achieve our goal of empowering youths.

12.4 Jobs for Youths in Agriculture

Our proposed Agricultural Transformation Program will make agriculture attractive to the youths through farm mechanization. We will train and engage our youths to operate farm machineries as service providers. Furthermore, we will work to ease access to land for farming for youths by addressing hinderances to securing land for agricultural purposes.

12.5 Jobs for Youths in ICT

Our adoption of digital governance will create ICT job opportunities in government institutions to be filled by tech savvy youths.

We will also set up digital innovation hubs and provide training programs to empower youth in digital skills and entrepreneurship in every local government in the state through strategic partnerships with the private sector.

12.6 Special Public Works Programs

We will introduce a State Special Public Works Scheme to engage Youths across the state in public infrastructure maintenance.

12.7 Grassroots Sports Development

We will activate structures at the grassroots, such as inter-school competitions to identify and groom talented youths to become champions.

12.8 Upgrade of Sports Infrastructure

We will renovate and upgrade our sporting facilities to world-class standards. We will also ensure that these facilities are put to good use regularly while ensuring proper maintenance culture.

12.9 Promoting Sports Entrepreneurship

We will develop and expose our talented youths to local and international opportunities available in the sporting industry for youth engagement either as sports personalities or administrators.

In addition, we will partner with the private sector and sports enthusiasts to develop unique and commercially viable sporting activities with lower cost outlays by providing the needed facilities e.g. Board Games.



13.0

Entertainment, Culture and Tourism Development

The Ododo administration will actively collaborate with the private sector to develop the entertainment sector in the state by promoting the talents of our creative youths.

Similarly, we will work to develop the vast tourism potential of the state to promote recreation, create employment and generate revenue for the state.

To achieve our twin goal of Entertainment and Tourism development, we shall implement the following initiatives:

13.1 Commercial Development of Key Tourist Sites

We will partner with the private sector to develop the commercial potentials of our key tourists' sites such as Mount Patti, the Confluence of River Niger and Benue, and other pre-independence colonial relics across the state for recreational purposes, job creation and internally generated revenue.

13.2 Provision of Tourism Infrastructure

We will exploit our strategic location as a major travel hub in Nigeria to drive traffic to Kogi State by providing essential infrastructure to attract tourists to the state.

13.3 Supporting Creativity in the Entertainment Sector

We will actively collaborate with the private sector to identify and promote the talents of our creative youths by providing veritable platforms to regularly showcase their talents to the larger Nigerian and International market.

13.4 Promoting Our Cultural Diversity

We will charge and empower relevant government agencies saddled with the responsibility of Culture and Tourism development to come up with creative initiatives promote our diverse culture across the state to foster unity and progress across the state.



14.0

Conclusion

Alhaji Usman Ahmed Ododo, as the consensus candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the New Direction political family, pledges to consolidate and continue the great legacies of Governor Yahaya Bello's administration.

Our Vision for Consolidation and Continuity seeks to sustain our journey on the new direction path to lift Kogi State to a higher level of performance and success. We pledge to vigorously implement the

broad ideas and initiatives presented in our manifesto to granular levels.

This manifesto outlines our commitment to good governance and transformational leadership, infrastructure development, education and human capital development, healthcare and social welfare, agriculture and rural development, security and peace-building, women and gender equality, environment and sustainable development, and more.

Through transparent and accountable governance, strategic partnerships, and effective policy implementation, we aim to transform Kogi State into a model of sustainable development, social inclusion, and economic prosperity. We are committed to serving the people of Kogi State with utmost dedication, integrity, and diligence.

As we embark on this journey, we call upon the support and active participation of all residents of Kogi State. Together, we can build a future that is marked by progress, unity, and shared prosperity. Let us join hands and work towards realizing the full potential of our beloved state.

On November 11, 2023, as we cast our votes, let us choose a path of consolidation and continuity. Let us elect Alhaji

Ododo Ahmed Usman as the Governor of Kogi State, a leader who embodies the values of the New Direction political family and is committed to building upon the legacy of Governor Yahaya Bello's administration.

With your support, we will make Kogi State a shining example of good governance, sustainable development, and a place where every citizen has the opportunity to thrive. Together, let us create a brighter future for generations to come.

Vote for Alhaji Ododo Ahmed Usman, the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), and let us march forward on the path of consolidation and continuity towards a better and brighter Kogi State.

"Consolidation and Continuity: Building on Great Legacies for a Better Kogi State."

Signed

Ododo Ahmed Usman

APC Governorship Candidate

Kogi State

June 29, 2023.

**ODODO |
JOEL**



**Consolidation &
Continuity '24**