



A Comprehensive Manifesto for Edo State: Towards A Greater, More Wealthy Future.

Preamble:

As a gubernatorial aspirant for Edo State, I recognize the state's unique historical and cultural significance, its vast natural resources, and the boundless potential of its people. I present this manifesto as a promise to the people of Edo, committing to lead with integrity, transparency, and an unwavering focus on sustainable development and progress.

Executive Summary

Edo State with Benin City as the capital, and known as the "Heartbeat of Nigeria," is steeped in rich history and culture. The state is in the South South geopolitical zone with a population of 4,777,000 million people, a GDP (PPP) of about \$25.81 billion, a per capita income of \$5,325 (PPP) and a total land area of 19,559 square kilometers. It is home to the ancient Kingdom of Benin, known for its remarkable artistry in bronze sculpture and metalwork dating back to the 11th century AD. The state's capital, Benin City, once had a moat (the Iya) regarded as the world's largest earthwork, constructed pre-mechanically. Edo has a diverse mix of ethnic groups, which includes the Edo, Esan, Afenmai, Akoko-Edo, Igbanke, and Emai.

Economically, the state is rich in arable land for agriculture which is the the mainstay of the economy. Oil produce, casava, yam, rice and corn are the major crops while some of the cash crops are rubber, timber, palm oil and kernels. Also endowed with mineral resources like oil and gas, limestone, bitumen, lignite, clay, iron-ore, among others. The state contributes significantly to Nigeria's oil production, though it is less dependent on oil than other Niger Delta states.

In a time of transformative global changes and local challenges, Edo State stands at the precipice of a new era. Patience Ndidi Key (Née Uwagboe), a gubernatorial aspirant for the 2024 elections in Edo State on the platform of People's Redemption Party (PRP), emerges as a beacon of hope, embodying the spirit of progress, innovation, and visionary leadership. Her candidacy is not



just a political endeavor; it represents a crusade towards inclusive growth, sustainable development, and a brighter future for all Edo indigenes.

With a career that spans various sectors and continents, Patience Ndidi Key's multifarious experiences have equipped her with an unparalleled understanding of both global and local dynamics. As President and CEO of the Nigerians in Diaspora Chamber of Commerce (NiDCC), her leadership transcends beyond traditional boundaries, reflecting a global perspective infused with local realities. Her journey from a health professional to a gubernatorial aspirant is marked by consistent excellence, a deep commitment to societal betterment, and an unyielding drive to uplift communities.

The Problem and Value Propositions

1. **Problem:** Current over-reliance on oil, dehumanization, underutilization of cultural and agricultural assets, and need for infrastructural development.

Understanding the Core Challenges:

1. **Economic Over-Reliance on Oil:** Edo State, like much of Nigeria, depends heavily on oil revenue. This mono-economic dependence makes it vulnerable to global oil price fluctuations and hinders diversification.
2. **Inadequate Infrastructure:** There's a significant gap in infrastructure - roads, healthcare facilities, schools, and digital connectivity - which hampers economic growth and affects the quality of life.
3. **Youth Unemployment and Underemployment:** A large segment of the state's youthful population faces unemployment or underemployment, leading to socio-economic challenges including crime and migration.
4. **Education System Gaps:** The educational infrastructure, both in terms of quality and accessibility, needs significant improvement to meet global standards and the state's developmental needs.
5. **Healthcare Access:** Access to quality healthcare is limited, particularly in rural areas, affecting the overall well-being and productivity of the population.

Value Propositions for Edo State:

1. **Diversified and Resilient Economy:** Transitioning from an oil-dependent economy to a diversified one, focusing on sectors like agriculture, technology, and tourism, can create sustainable growth and stability. Edo can build a more resilient economy by creating a conducive environment for investment, supporting SMEs, and promoting sectors with high growth potential.
2. **Cultural Renaissance:** By promoting its heritage nationally and globally, Edo can attract tourism and foster cultural industries.
3. **Robust Infrastructure Development:** Investment in infrastructure is key. This includes not just physical infrastructure but also digital, creating a more connected and efficient state. Modern infrastructure can improve quality of life and boost economic activities. This should encompass transportation networks, digital infrastructure, and utilities.
4. **Youth Development Program:** Creating opportunities for the youth through education, vocational training, skills development, job creation, and entrepreneurship can harness their potential as a driving force for development and address the challenge of youth unemployment.
5. **Educational Reform and Investment:** Reforming the education system to focus on quality, relevance, and access will build a strong foundation for long-term socio-economic development - improving curriculum, teacher training, and infrastructure, and integrating technology in education. Investing in education and tech innovation can create a skilled workforce, driving growth and attracting global partnerships.
6. **Strengthening Healthcare Systems:** Developing a robust healthcare system, with an emphasis on affordable and quality healthcare is accessible to all Edo residents, especially in underserved rural areas, will be a key responsibility. This is crucial for a healthy, productive population.
7. **Sustainable Practices and Environmental Conservation:** Embracing sustainable practices in development projects and conservation efforts to protect the state's natural resources is essential.

8. **Diaspora Engagement for Development:** Actively engaging the Edo diaspora for investment, skills transfer, and global networking can catalyze the state's development.

Edo State's transformation is not just about economic growth but also about realizing its full potential as a cultural and intellectual leader in Nigeria and beyond. With its rich history, diverse resources, and dynamic population, Edo has all the ingredients to become a model state, mirroring successes like Singapore. By addressing current challenges with strategic vision and effective implementation, Edo can indeed shine on the global stage, offering prosperity and a high quality of life to its people.

Vision for Edo State

"Transform Edo State into a dynamic and prosperous center of excellence in Nigeria, where innovation, education, and sustainable development drive the wellbeing and prosperity of every citizen, making it a model state for economic growth, cultural richness, and environmental sustainability in Africa".

Mission for Edo State

"To diligently harness the diverse resources of Edo State - its people, culture, natural resources, and technology - to create inclusive economic growth, enhance the quality of life, and establish a sustainable and resilient society that upholds the values of equity, innovation, and heritage."

Why Transform Edo State?

1. **Diversifying the Economy:** Currently, Edo's economy heavily relies on oil. Diversification into sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, and services is essential for sustainable growth.
2. **Harnessing Human Capital:** With a youthful population, investing in education and skill development can transform Edo into a knowledge-driven economy.
3. **Cultural Heritage and Tourism:** Edo's rich history and cultural heritage offer tremendous potential in tourism. Properly harnessed, this can be a significant revenue source.

4. **Technological Advancement:** Leveraging technology for governance, education, and business can position Edo as a hub for innovation in Nigeria and beyond.

Edo's Offerings to Its People and the World

1. **Cultural Wealth:** Edo's art and culture have global significance, particularly its bronze sculptures and historical sites like the Oba Palace.
2. **Strategic Location:** Its location makes it a potential commercial and transportation hub within Nigeria.
3. **Agricultural Potential:** With fertile land, Edo has the potential to be a leader in agriculture and agro-based industries.
4. **Young Workforce:** A demographic advantage, Edo's youthful population can be a powerhouse of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Edo State: Historical Significance, Transformational Vision, and the Role of Diaspora

Edo State, with its population of over 4.7 million people, is a vibrant tapestry of history, culture, and economic potential. The state's demographic profile is predominantly youthful, with about 60% of its population under the age of 30, making it a reservoir of energy and innovation.

Cultural Heritage and Economic Transformation:

1. **Cultural Wealth:** Home to the historic Kingdom of Benin, Edo's cultural heritage is unparalleled. Artifacts from Benin City are global treasures, showcasing intricate bronze work. Investing in cultural tourism can potentially increase state revenues by up to 25-30%, tapping into the global cultural tourism market.
2. **Agricultural Potential:** Agriculture can employ about 70% of the state's workforce. With fertile lands, Edo has the capacity to become a leading agricultural hub, contributing significantly to both food security and industrial raw materials. Improved agricultural practices and agro-processing could boost the sector's contribution to the state GDP by up to 40%.

3. **Technological Advancement and Education:** With the right investment, Edo State can transform into a technology and educational hub. Targeting 15-20% of the state budget towards education, particularly STEM, can revolutionize the sector, creating a workforce ready for the global digital economy.
4. **Infrastructure Development:** Currently, infrastructural challenges hamper economic growth. Strategic investments in transport, housing, and digital infrastructure can enhance living standards and economic productivity, potentially increasing the state's GDP growth rate by 5-10% annually.

Population and Diaspora Impact:

1. **Population Dynamics:** Edo State's growing population, currently estimated at over 4.7 million, is both a challenge and an opportunity. Urban planning, healthcare, and education systems must be scaled and modernized to meet the growing needs.
2. **Diaspora Contribution:** The Edo diaspora is a significant asset. Remittances from the diaspora contribute substantially to the state's economy. In 2022, Nigeria received over \$20 billion in remittances, with a substantial portion coming from the Edo diaspora. This funding can be channeled into development projects. Additionally, the diaspora brings skills, technology, and global networks that can be leveraged for state development.
3. **Diaspora Engagement:** Actively engaging the diaspora could lead to a 15-20% increase in foreign direct investment and technology transfer. Programs targeting diaspora professionals can facilitate knowledge and cultural exchange, contributing significantly to sectors like healthcare, education, and technology.

Edo State, at the heart of Nigeria, has the potential to become a model for African development. Leveraging its rich cultural heritage, youthful population, agricultural capacity, and the strength of its diaspora, Edo can transform into a thriving, prosperous state. Strategic investment in key sectors, coupled with effective utilization of diaspora resources, can propel Edo onto the global stage,

making it a beacon of cultural richness, economic success, and technological advancement.

Comparative Analysis: Singapore as a Model for Edo State

As Edo State charts its course towards transformative development, Singapore's meteoric rise from a modest trading post to a global powerhouse offers invaluable lessons. Singapore has transformed into a global hub of commerce, finance, and transport. Its success hinges on robust governance, strategic urban planning, investment in human capital, and embracing technological innovation. Singapore's transformation is particularly instructive for Edo State, given its strategic location, diverse population, and potential for economic growth.

Key Aspects of Singapore's Success Story:

1. **Robust Governance:** Singapore is renowned for its efficient and transparent governance. The city-state consistently ranks high in global indices for ease of doing business. For Edo State, adopting similar principles could streamline bureaucratic processes, combat corruption, and create a more business-friendly environment.
2. **Strategic Urban Planning:** Singapore's urban planning is a benchmark in maximizing land use, with about 90% of Singaporeans living in high-quality public housing. Edo State, with its expanding urban centers, can take cues from Singapore in developing sustainable and livable cities while optimizing land use.
3. **Investment in Human Capital:** Singapore heavily invests in its human resources. Its education system, ranked among the top globally, focuses on meritocracy and excellence. For Edo, investing in education - particularly targeting 20-25% of its annual budget towards this sector - can create a skilled workforce capable of driving economic growth.
4. **Technological Innovation:** Singapore's commitment to technological innovation has made it a Smart Nation, leveraging technology to enhance living standards and economic efficiency. Edo State, by allocating 10-15% of its budget to technology and innovation, can foster a similar environment conducive to technological advancement and digital transformation.

5. **Economic Diversification:** Singapore's economy is well-diversified, with strong sectors in finance, manufacturing, and shipping. Edo State's economy, primarily reliant on oil, could benefit from diversifying into sectors like agriculture, technology, and tourism, potentially aiming for a 30-35% contribution to its GDP from these sectors.
6. **Healthcare System:** Singapore's healthcare system is one of the most efficient worldwide. Edo State, by investing substantially in healthcare infrastructure and services, could significantly improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare services for its population.
7. **Corruption Control:** One of Singapore's most notable achievements is its low corruption levels, achieved through strict laws and effective enforcement. Implementing similar measures in Edo State could greatly enhance investor confidence and public trust in governance.

Application to Edo State:

Comparative Analysis: Singapore as a Model

As Edo State envisages transformation, Singapore presents an ideal model. From a small trading post, Singapore has transformed into a global hub of commerce, finance, and transport. Its success hinges on robust governance, strategic urban planning, investment in human capital, and embracing technological innovation.

Adopting Singapore's model, Edo State can focus on:

- Establishing transparent and efficient governance systems.
- Strategic urban development, potentially increasing urban land utilization by up to 50%.
- Prioritizing education and technology, aiming to increase literacy rates and digital connectivity by at least 25% in the next decade.
- Diversifying the economy to reduce over-reliance on oil, targeting a 30-40% increase in GDP contributions from new sectors.



While Singapore and Edo State are markedly different in many respects, the principles underlying Singapore's success - efficient governance, strategic planning, investment in human capital, and embracing technology - are universally applicable. By tailoring these principles to its unique context, Edo State can embark on a path of sustainable development and economic growth, positioning itself as a leading state in Nigeria and a model for others in the region.

Three Holistic Agenda Topics

I. Integrated Human Capital Development (IHCD)

Our people are our greatest asset. Investing in the present and future generations ensures sustained growth and a thriving society.

Education Renaissance:

- **Modern Infrastructure:** Ensure every school has conducive classrooms, modern learning tools, and amenities.
- **Teacher Training:** Continuous professional development programs to keep our educators abreast of global teaching standards.
- **Updated Curricula:** Incorporate modern subjects like digital literacy, entrepreneurship, and civic education.
- **Scholarships:** Grants for academically brilliant students to attend top national and international institutions.

Healthcare for All:

- **Modern Healthcare Facilities:** Revamp existing hospitals and establish new clinics in underserved areas.
- **Preventive Healthcare:** Launch statewide health campaigns focusing on nutrition, hygiene, and regular health checks.
- **Affordable Medication:** Partnerships with pharmaceutical companies to provide essential drugs at subsidized rates.
- **Health Insurance:** A state-backed scheme to ensure every resident can afford medical services.

Youth Engagement & Skill Development:

- **Vocational Training Centers:** Establish facilities that focus on practical skills, from carpentry to coding.
- **Entrepreneurship Hubs:** Provide resources, funding, and mentorship for young Edo entrepreneurs.
- **Sports & Arts:** Encourage and fund talents in sports and arts, showcasing Edo's talents nationally and globally.

II. Sustainable Economic Diversification (SED) ★

Building a resilient and multifaceted economy will ensure long-term prosperity, reduce unemployment, and raise living standards.

Agricultural Transformation:

- **Farming Communities:** Establish cooperative societies, providing them with modern tools, seeds, and training.
- **Agro-Processing Zones:** Encourage value addition to raw agricultural products, increasing their market value.
- **Export Initiatives:** Link farmers to international markets and provide logistics support.

Tourism & Cultural Promotion:

- **Historical Site Preservation:** Invest in the maintenance and promotion of Edo's rich historical sites, making them attractive for tourism.
- **Cultural Festivals:** Sponsor and promote state-wide cultural festivals, attracting national and international attention.
- **Tourism Partnerships:** Collaborate with travel agencies and influencers to market Edo as a must-visit destination.

Technological Innovation & Digital Economy:

- **Tech Hubs:** Create state-of-the-art facilities where innovators can develop solutions for local and global challenges.



- **Digital Infrastructure:** Ensure stable internet connectivity statewide, enabling businesses and fostering e-learning.
- **Tech Education:** Introduce coding and digital skills in school curriculums.

III. Infrastructure and Environmental Resilience (IER)

To thrive in the 21st century, Edo must boast of modern infrastructure and a commitment to preserving its natural beauty.

Modern Infrastructure Development:

- **Roads & Transport:** Embark on a massive road construction and rehabilitation spree; explore sustainable public transport options.
- **Power:** Partner with renewable energy companies to ensure constant electricity, reducing reliance on the national grid.
- **Water & Sanitation:** Improve water supply chains and promote sanitation through modern waste management facilities.

Environmental Conservation:

- **Reforestation:** Launch programs aimed at planting millions of trees yearly.
- **Waste Management:** Implement modern waste collection and processing systems, including recycling plants.
- **Climate Change Initiatives:** Collaborate with global bodies to introduce measures that combat the effects of climate change.

Urban Planning & Housing:

- **Affordable Housing:** Partner with real estate developers to roll out housing schemes that cater to all income classes.
- **City Beautification:** Initiate green spaces, parks, and pedestrian-friendly zones in urban areas.
- **Land Use:** Implement policies ensuring efficient and environmentally friendly land use.

Our vision for Edo State is one where every citizen experiences the dividends of good governance. Through our Integrated Human Capital Development, Sustainable Economic Diversification, and Infrastructure and Environmental Resilience agendas, we aim to elevate Edo State to unprecedented heights of development, prosperity, and well-being. Together, we can build an Edo that future generations will be proud of.

The Fourteen Pillars of Wealth Creation Agenda.

1. Education and Youth Development:

- **Objective:** To position Edo State as the educational powerhouse of Nigeria.
 - **Implementation:**
 - Revamp and modernize school infrastructure, ensuring every child in Edo has access to a conducive learning environment.
 - Collaborate with technology firms to introduce e-learning platforms and digital libraries.
 - Establish vocational training centers across the state, targeting sectors with high employment potential.
 - Introduce scholarship programs for brilliant students to study in top institutions around the world.

2. Economic Growth and Job Creation:

- **Objective:** To harness Edo's strategic location and resources for economic prosperity.
 - **Implementation:**
 - Establish Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to attract local and foreign investments.
 - Support agriculture by providing farmers with modern tools, training, and access to markets.
 - Create an entrepreneurship fund to support start-ups and SMEs, with a focus on tech, agriculture, and tourism sectors.



- Facilitate public-private partnerships for infrastructural and economic projects.

3. Health and Well-being:

- **Objective:** To ensure every citizen of Edo has access to affordable and quality healthcare.
 - **Implementation:**
 - Modernize public hospitals and clinics, ensuring they are equipped with the latest medical tools.
 - Launch mobile clinics to cater to remote areas, ensuring that healthcare reaches every corner of Edo.
 - Collaborate with international health organizations to provide training to our healthcare personnel.
 - Initiate a state-backed health insurance scheme to reduce out-of-pocket expenses for the people.

4. Infrastructure and Transportation:

- **Objective:** To transform Edo's infrastructure to world-class standards.
 - **Implementation:**
 - Embark on an aggressive road construction and rehabilitation program.
 - Explore the feasibility of a light rail system in Benin City to ease transportation.
 - Partner with private firms to introduce reliable and sustainable energy solutions for urban and rural areas alike.
 - Invest in water supply and sanitation facilities across the state.

5. Culture, Tourism, and Heritage:

- **Objective:** To position Edo State as a leading destination for tourism in Nigeria.
 - **Implementation:**
 - Restore and promote historical sites and museums, making them attractive to local and international tourists.
 - Facilitate annual cultural festivals that showcase Edo's rich heritage.
 - Offer incentives to private investors interested in building hotels, resorts, and recreational facilities.
 - Collaborate with national and international agencies to market Edo as a prime destination.

6. Environment and Sustainability:

- **Objective:** To ensure Edo State remains green and sustainable for future generations.
 - **Implementation:**
 - Initiate reforestation projects, with a goal to plant millions of trees annually.
 - Encourage sustainable farming practices, offering training and incentives to farmers.
 - Establish recycling plants and promote waste-to-energy solutions.
 - Partner with NGOs and international organizations to combat climate change at the grassroots level.

7. Good Governance and Transparency:

- **Objective:** To foster a government that is accountable, transparent, and responsive to its citizens.

- **Implementation:**

- Adopt digital solutions for government operations, making processes more transparent and efficient.
- Encourage citizen participation in decision-making through digital platforms and townhall meetings.
- Regularly publish the state's financial transactions, ensuring full transparency in how funds are allocated and used.
- Partner with NGOs and other agencies to monitor and evaluate the progress of projects, ensuring accountability at all levels.

8. Women Empowerment and Gender Equality:

- **Objective:** To elevate the status of women in Edo, ensuring their equal participation in all sectors.

- **Implementation:**

- Establish Edo Women Development Centers across local government areas to provide vocational training and entrepreneurial support.
- Launch “Edo Women in Tech” program, offering scholarships to young girls to pursue STEM education.
- Work with local communities to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality and the dangers of harmful practices.
- Initiate a microloan program specifically for women-led businesses, ensuring they have the necessary financial support.

9. Security and Peacebuilding:

- **Objective:** To create a safe and secure environment for all residents and visitors in Edo State.



- **Implementation:**

- Strengthen the state's security apparatus through modern equipment and consistent training.
- Collaborate with community leaders to establish community policing initiatives.
- Use technology solutions like CCTV cameras in strategic locations and introduce emergency helplines.
- Organize regular stakeholder meetings between security agencies, local leaders, and citizens to discuss and address security concerns.

10. Agricultural Revitalization:

- **Objective:** To make Edo the agricultural hub of Nigeria, ensuring food security and job creation.

- **Implementation:**

- Introduce modern farming techniques through training camps and workshops.
- Establish a state-backed agro-financing program to support farmers with seedlings, tools, and fertilizers.
- Develop and modernize the agricultural supply chain, creating silos and cold storage facilities.
- Partner with private firms to facilitate agro-processing zones, adding value to raw produce and enhancing export potential.

11. Digital and Technology Advancement:

- **Objective:** To position Edo as a leader in digital innovation and technological advancements in Nigeria.

- **Implementation:**

- Establish tech hubs and incubation centers in partnership with leading tech companies.
- Offer incentives for tech startups, including tax breaks and mentorship programs.
- Collaborate with international tech institutions to bring advanced tech courses to Edo.
- Roll out public Wi-Fi zones in strategic locations, including markets, bus stations, and public squares.

12. Sports and Recreation:

- **Objective:** To discover and nurture talents, fostering a culture of sports and recreational activities.
 - **Implementation:**
 - Revamp and construct sports facilities across the state, ensuring they meet international standards.
 - Initiate grassroots sports programs, targeting schools and local communities.
 - Host annual sports festivals to discover and nurture talents, with provisions for scholarships for outstanding athletes.
 - Establish recreational parks and zones, providing residents with spaces for relaxation and recreation.

13. Energy and Power:

- **Objective:** To ensure reliable power supply, promoting industrialization and enhancing the quality of life.



- **Implementation:**

- Partner with renewable energy firms to explore solar, wind, and hydroelectric power options.
- Establish community solar projects, especially in off-grid areas.
- Encourage private sector participation in the energy sector through incentives and policy support.
- Organize training programs for youths in the renewable energy sector, ensuring local expertise in maintenance and management.

14. Housing and Urban Development:

- **Objective:** To ensure affordable housing for all and promote planned urban development.

- **Implementation:**

- Collaborate with private developers to roll out affordable housing schemes, targeting different income groups.
- Introduce policies to support the construction of green buildings and sustainable architectural designs.
- Develop and modernize the public transport system, reducing traffic congestion and promoting urban mobility.
- Launch urban beautification projects, including parks, green spaces, and pedestrian zones.

I envision an Edo State where every individual is empowered to achieve their dreams, where our cultural and natural heritage is preserved and celebrated, and where we stand as a beacon of progress not only in Nigeria but across the African continent. Together, let's build a brighter future for Edo.



Agenda for Rural Development in Edo State

Rural development in Edo State is crucial for achieving balanced growth, reducing inequality, and improving the quality of life for a significant portion of the population. Comprehensively, our vision for rural development addresses various facets, including agriculture, infrastructure, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

Current Scenario and Potential:

- 1. Agricultural Dominance:** Approximately 70-80% of Edo State's rural population is engaged in agriculture. However, much of this is subsistence farming. There's a vast potential to transform this sector into a more productive and profitable model, contributing significantly to both food security and the state's GDP.
- 2. Infrastructure Gaps:** Many rural areas in Edo lack basic infrastructure such as roads, electricity, and water supply. Improving these can enhance the quality of life and economic productivity, potentially increasing rural incomes by 20-30%.

Strategies for Rural Development:

- 1. Agricultural Modernization and Value Addition:**
 - We will invest in agricultural technology and provide access to better seeds, fertilizers, and farming practices to greatly increase crop yields.
 - Establish agro-processing zones in rural areas for value addition to agricultural products to boost farmer incomes and create jobs.
- 2. Infrastructure Development:**
 - Improving road connectivity, electricity, and internet access in rural areas is vital. This can facilitate access to markets, information, and services, potentially increasing economic activities by 15-20%.

- Develop sustainable water and sanitation facilities to improve health outcomes and reduce time spent on fetching water, particularly benefiting women and children.

3. **Education and Skill Development:**

- Upgrade rural schools and introduce vocational training programs to enhance education quality and relevance, providing the youth with skills for better employment opportunities.
- Initiate e-learning and mobile libraries to bridge the educational divide between rural and urban areas.

4. **Healthcare Access:**

- Strengthen rural healthcare infrastructure and provide mobile health services to ensure better health outcomes. Use telemedicine, a game-changer in offering access to specialist care.
- Focus on preventive healthcare through regular health camps and awareness programs to reduce disease burden.

5. **Economic Diversification:**

- Encourage non-agricultural economic activities such as rural tourism, handicrafts, and small-scale industries to diversify income sources.
- Microfinance and credit facilities tailored for rural entrepreneurs to empower them to start or expand businesses.

6. **Community Participation and Governance:**

- Engage rural communities in planning and decision-making to ensure that development projects meet their actual needs.
- Strengthen local governance structures to improve service delivery and accountability.

7. **Environmental Sustainability:**

- Promote sustainable farming practices and conservation projects to protect rural ecosystems.



- Initiate community forests and renewable energy projects (solar, biogas) to provide economic benefits while preserving the environment.

Our vision for rural development in Edo State is about creating an environment where rural areas are no longer seen as the periphery of development but as integral and dynamic parts of the state's growth narrative. By investing in agriculture, infrastructure, education, healthcare, and economic diversification, and ensuring active community participation, rural Edo can experience substantial transformation. This holistic approach can lead to improved living standards, reduced urban migration, and a significant contribution to the state's economy. With targeted efforts, the rural landscape of Edo State can transform into thriving communities, embodying the potential and resilience of the "Heartbeat of Nigeria."

Agenda for Edo State Development: Diaspora Collaboration

Overview:

Harnessing the potential of the Edo diaspora is a strategic asset in driving the state's development agenda. The Edo diaspora, spread across the globe, is a rich reservoir of investment, skills, and knowledge that can significantly contribute to the state's progress.

Current Context:

- The Nigerian diaspora sent back over \$20 billion in remittances in 2022, with a significant contribution from Edo indigenes. This represents a substantial economic resource that can be channeled into development projects.
- The Edo diaspora encompasses professionals, entrepreneurs, academics, and others who can offer valuable expertise and connections.



Strategic Agenda for Diaspora Collaboration:

1. Establishment of a Diaspora Investment Fund:

- My administration will create a dedicated fund to facilitate investments from the diaspora into key sectors such as agriculture, technology, and infrastructure. A target of mobilizing 5-10% of annual remittances into this fund can significantly boost local development projects.

2. Diaspora Skills Database and Knowledge Exchange Programs:

- We will develop a comprehensive database of Edo diaspora professionals and their expertise. Launch knowledge exchange programs where diaspora professionals can contribute to capacity building in Edo State.
- Example: A program pairing diaspora health professionals with local hospitals for training and exchange of best practices.

3. Diaspora Direct Investment Initiatives:

- This initiative will help us to promote direct investment opportunities in Edo State to the diaspora, focusing on sectors with high growth potential. This can include real estate, manufacturing, and IT.
- Example: Real estate investment trusts (REITs) or funds focused on developing affordable housing and commercial infrastructure.

4. Diaspora Bond for Infrastructure Development:

- Our administration will issue a diaspora bond specifically targeted at Edo indigenes abroad, earmarking the funds raised for critical infrastructure projects. A target of raising \$500 million-\$800 million through such bonds can significantly aid in large-scale infrastructure development.

5. Cultural and Educational Exchange Programs:

- We will foster cultural ties by initiating exchange programs between Edo State and countries with a significant Edo diaspora population. These programs can focus on cultural, educational, and youth exchanges, promoting mutual understanding and collaboration.
- Example: Scholarship programs for Edo students to study abroad, supported by the diaspora community.

6. Diaspora Advisory Council:

- Establish a council comprising influential Edo diaspora members to advise the state government on policies and strategies to engage the diaspora effectively.
- This council can also play a role in mediating and facilitating foreign partnerships and investments.

7. Annual Diaspora Summit:

- Host an annual summit in Edo State, bringing together diaspora members and local stakeholders. This event can serve as a platform for networking, investment matchmaking, and discussions on developmental issues.
- A target to attract at least 1,500 diaspora members annually to these summits can create a continuous engagement channel.

8. Diaspora Entrepreneurship and Innovation Hub:

- Develop a hub in Edo State that focuses on nurturing startups and innovations, particularly from young entrepreneurs, with mentorship and support from the diaspora community.



By actively engaging the Edo diaspora in the state's development, there is a tremendous opportunity to accelerate growth, transfer knowledge, and foster a sense of global community. This agenda aims to tap into the diaspora's potential as a catalyst for transformation, bringing benefits not just to Edo State but also offering value and connection to its global community. This approach is not just about leveraging financial resources but also about building lasting partnerships that can propel Edo State onto a new trajectory of prosperity and innovation.

Vision for Edo State

A Holistic Development Agenda:

Educational Empowerment:

Patience Ndidi Key's vision for educational empowerment in Edo State is not just about reform; it's about a revolution in the educational sector, transforming it into a beacon of excellence and innovation. Her comprehensive plan aims to overhaul the educational landscape of Edo, positioning it at the forefront of global educational standards while ensuring it remains deeply rooted in meeting the unique needs and potentials of the state.

- 1. Curriculum Modernization and Integration:** Recognizing the evolving demands of the 21st century, Patience proposes a curriculum that is both forward-thinking and inclusive. This involves integrating STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education, focusing on digital literacy, and incorporating vocational and skill-based learning. The aim is to produce graduates who are not only academically proficient but also equipped with practical skills and digital competencies.
- 2. Teacher Training and Professional Development:** Central to her vision is the empowerment of teachers through continuous professional development. This includes regular training programs, exchange opportunities with educational institutions globally, and incentives to attract and retain the best teaching talents. By investing in teachers, she believes Edo State can ensure the highest quality of education for its students.



3. **Infrastructure Enhancement:** Patience envisions state-of-the-art educational facilities across Edo State. This includes well-equipped classrooms, science laboratories, computer centers, and libraries. She plans to leverage technology to create smart classrooms, providing an interactive and engaging learning environment for students.
4. **Inclusive Education:** Understanding the diverse needs of students, her vision includes special focus on inclusive education. This involves tailored learning approaches for students with disabilities, ensuring that educational opportunities are equitable and accessible to all children, regardless of their physical or learning challenges.
5. **Scholarship Programs and Educational Grants:** To ensure that financial constraints do not hinder the educational aspirations of Edo's youth, Patience plans to introduce comprehensive scholarship programs and educational grants. These will target meritorious students, particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds, providing them with the support needed to pursue higher education.
6. **Partnerships for Educational Excellence:** Building strategic partnerships with international educational institutions and organizations is a key aspect of her vision. These partnerships will facilitate knowledge exchange, provide exposure to global educational trends, and open doors for collaborative research and learning opportunities.
7. **Fostering a Culture of Learning and Innovation:** Beyond the formal education system, Patience aims to foster a culture where learning, creativity, and innovation are nurtured. Community learning centers, after-school programs, and youth innovation hubs will be established to encourage continuous learning and skill development.

Patience Ndidi Key's vision for educational empowerment in Edo State is about creating a robust, dynamic, and inclusive educational system that not only imparts knowledge but also inspires a lifelong love for learning and innovation. Her approach is holistic, encompassing curriculum development, teacher empowerment, infrastructural advancement, and partnerships – all aimed at preparing Edo's youth for a bright and prosperous future.



Healthcare Accessibility:

Patience Ndidi Key envisions a healthcare revolution in Edo State, where every individual has access to affordable, quality medical services, underpinned by a robust and responsive healthcare system. Her proposals for healthcare reforms are comprehensive, aiming to not only address current challenges but also future proof the health sector.

- 1. Universal Healthcare Coverage:** One of the cornerstones of Patience's vision is the implementation of a universal healthcare system that ensures no one is left behind. This includes expanding health insurance coverage, making it more inclusive, and reducing the cost burden on individuals, especially the underprivileged/underserved.
- 2. Modernizing Healthcare Infrastructure:** Recognizing the critical need for quality healthcare facilities, Patience proposes the construction and modernization of hospitals and clinics, equipping them with state-of-the-art medical technology and resources. This includes establishing specialized centers for chronic diseases, maternal health, and pediatric care.
- 3. Strengthening Primary Healthcare:** To build a foundation for a healthy society, Patience emphasizes the strengthening of primary healthcare centers across Edo State. These centers will serve as the first point of contact, offering preventive care, routine check-ups, and managing common ailments, thereby reducing the burden on tertiary facilities.
- 4. Workforce Development and Retention:** A key aspect of Patience's healthcare vision is to address the shortage of medical professionals. She plans to implement strategies for training, retaining, and incentivizing healthcare workers. This includes scholarships for medical students, competitive wages for healthcare workers, and continuous professional development opportunities.
- 5. Public Health Initiatives and Campaigns:** Understanding the importance of preventive healthcare, Patience aims to launch public health campaigns focusing on areas such as vaccination, maternal health, nutrition, and lifestyle diseases. These initiatives will not only help in disease prevention but also promote overall well-being.



6. **Telemedicine and Digital Health:** To make healthcare more accessible, especially in remote areas, Patience plans to leverage technology through telemedicine. This approach will allow patients to consult with doctors remotely, reducing travel time and making healthcare more accessible.
7. **Emergency Medical Services:** Patience envisions a robust emergency medical service (EMS) system with a quick response time. This includes well-equipped ambulances, trained emergency personnel, and a centralized emergency call system to ensure timely medical interventions during emergencies.
8. **Mental Health and Well-being:** Recognizing mental health as a critical component of overall health, Patience proposes to integrate mental health services into the primary healthcare system, along with launching awareness programs to destigmatize mental health issues.
9. **Research and Development:** She also advocates for investment in medical research and development, encouraging local research on prevalent health issues and collaborating with international health bodies to bring global expertise to Edo State.

Patience's vision for healthcare in Edo State is a blend of empathy, compassion, innovation, and practical solutions. She aims to create a healthcare system that is not just about treating illnesses but promoting and sustaining a healthy and vibrant society. Her approach is holistic, addressing immediate healthcare needs while laying the groundwork for a sustainable and resilient healthcare system for future generations.

New Vision · New Voice · New Direction



Infrastructure and Urban Development:

Patience Ndidi Key's vision for infrastructure and urban development in Edo State is a bold and transformative agenda that aims to reshape the state's landscape into a model of modern efficiency and sustainable living.

Recognizing that robust infrastructure is the backbone of economic growth and quality of life, her approach encompasses a comprehensive overhaul and advancement of transport systems, housing, and urban planning.

- 1. Transportation Revolution:** Central to her vision is a modernized transportation network that caters to the growing needs of Edo State. This includes the development of an integrated public transport system with new roads, bridges, and mass transit options like buses and light rail services. She envisions a state where mobility is seamless, reducing travel time and boosting economic activities.
- 2. Sustainable Housing Development:** Patience aims to tackle the housing deficit head-on by promoting the construction of affordable, quality housing. Her plan includes incentivizing private developers to invest in housing projects, utilizing innovative building technologies that are cost-effective and environmentally friendly. The focus is not just on building homes but creating communities with access to essential amenities like parks, schools, and healthcare facilities.
- 3. Smart Urban Planning:** Recognizing the challenges of urbanization, her strategy involves smart urban planning that integrates green spaces, promotes walkability, and ensures sustainable management of natural resources. This includes developing new urban areas with a focus on reducing congestion, preserving green belts, and enhancing the aesthetic appeal of urban centers.
- 4. Infrastructure for Health and Education:** Patience is committed to building state-of-the-art healthcare and educational facilities. This includes hospitals and clinics equipped with the latest medical technologies and schools designed to provide a conducive learning environment, reflecting her commitment to human capital development.



5. **Digital Infrastructure:** In an increasingly digital world, Patience understands the need for robust digital infrastructure. This encompasses widespread internet connectivity, especially in rural areas, to bridge the digital divide, and the creation of tech hubs to foster innovation and attract IT businesses.
6. **Public Utilities and Services:** Improving public utilities like water supply, electricity, and waste management systems is a key aspect of her infrastructure agenda. She plans to introduce efficient and sustainable systems for water and electricity distribution and implement modern waste management techniques to promote cleanliness and public health.
7. **Heritage and Tourism Infrastructure:** Patience also plans to enhance the infrastructure around Edo's rich cultural heritage sites and tourist attractions. This includes not only preservation efforts but also the development of facilities that enhance the visitor experience, thereby boosting tourism and the local economy.
8. **Responsive Urban Governance:** To ensure the success of these initiatives, Patience advocates for responsive and transparent urban governance mechanisms. This involves citizen participation in urban development planning, regular town hall meetings, and digital platforms for public feedback and engagement.

My vision for infrastructure and urban development is not just about building roads and houses; it's about crafting a foundation for a thriving, sustainable, and livable Edo State. Her approach is holistic, marrying technological innovation with a deep understanding of the socio-economic fabric of the state. Through this comprehensive development agenda, she aims to transform Edo State into a hub of modern urban excellence and a standard-bearer for sustainable development in Nigeria.



Cultural Renaissance and Tourism:

Patience Ndidi Key's vision for Edo State encompasses a cultural renaissance that not only preserves the state's rich heritage but also showcases it as a cornerstone of tourism and economic development. Understanding that culture and tourism are intertwined, her approach is to elevate Edo's cultural identity, turning it into a vibrant tapestry that attracts visitors from around the globe while enriching the lives of local communities.

1. Preservation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage:

- Patience is committed to the preservation of Edo's historical sites, ancient artifacts, and cultural practices. This involves restoration projects for historical landmarks and supporting museums in curating and conserving artifacts that tell the story of Edo's past.
- She envisions the creation of cultural centers that not only serve as repositories of history but also as active community spaces for cultural education and activities.

2. Cultural Festivals and Events:

- Recognizing the power of festivals in celebrating and reviving cultural heritage, Patience plans to promote and expand local festivals. These festivals will not only be a showcase of Edo's rich traditions but also a platform for local artists, performers, and craftsmen.
- She aims to introduce new cultural events that can become annual attractions, drawing in tourists and fostering a sense of pride among the residents of Edo State.

3. Tourism Infrastructure Development:

- Key to Patience's tourism strategy is developing infrastructure that enhances the visitor experience. This includes improving accessibility to tourist sites, ensuring quality accommodation facilities, and providing reliable information and tour services.



- Developing eco-tourism and cultural tourism trails, highlighting Edo's natural landscapes and cultural heritage sites, can offer immersive experiences for tourists while promoting environmental conservation.

4. Global Promotion of Edo's Culture:

- Patience intends to leverage digital platforms to globally market Edo's culture and tourism potential. This involves digital storytelling, virtual tours, and active social media campaigns that bring Edo's culture to a global audience.
- Collaborations with international cultural organizations and participation in global cultural expos and fairs will further elevate Edo's cultural standing on the world stage.

5. Empowering Local Communities:

- Central to her vision is ensuring that the local communities are key beneficiaries of cultural and tourism development. This includes training programs for locals in tourism management, hospitality, and guiding services.
- Encouraging community-based tourism, where visitors can experience local lifestyles, crafts, and cuisine, can provide sustainable income sources for communities while offering authentic experiences for tourists.

6. Integrating Culture in Education:

- To foster a cultural renaissance, Patience believes in integrating cultural education in the school curriculum. This not only helps in preserving cultural heritage but also instills a sense of identity and pride in the younger generation.

7. Festivals and Arts as Economic Drivers:

- By positioning cultural festivals and the arts as key economic drivers, Patience aims to attract investment into these sectors. This includes supporting local artisans, performers, and cultural enterprises through grants, training, and market access.



In essence, Patience Ndidi Key's vision for cultural renaissance and tourism is a celebration of Edo's past, a reinforcement of its present identity, and a strategic lever for its future prosperity. Her approach is to weave culture into the fabric of economic and social development, creating a state where heritage is not only cherished but also a key driver of progress and a source of communal pride.

Economic and Technological Advancement:

Patience Ndidi Key's strategy for Edo State's economic and technological advancement is a blueprint for turning the state into a hub of innovation and entrepreneurship. Her vision is to harness Edo's rich resources, human capital, and technological potential to create an economy that is not only robust and diverse but also future-proof and globally competitive.

1. Establishment of Tech Hubs and Innovation Centers:

- Patience plans to establish state-of-the-art tech hubs and innovation centers across Edo State. These hubs will serve as incubators for new ideas and businesses, providing resources such as high-speed internet, mentorship, and access to funding.
- Example: A flagship tech park in Benin City, acting as a central node connecting smaller hubs in other towns, fostering a statewide network of innovation.

2. Fostering a Startup Ecosystem:

- Recognizing the transformative power of entrepreneurship, her vision includes creating an enabling environment for startups. This involves easing regulatory burdens, providing tax incentives, and facilitating access to capital through venture funding initiatives.
- Example: Launching an Edo State Startup Fund that offers grants and seed capital to young entrepreneurs, particularly in sectors like agri-tech, fin-tech, and renewable energy.



3. Utilization of Natural Resources:

- Patience aims to move beyond the traditional extraction of natural resources, advocating for their value-added utilization. This includes promoting industries that process raw materials locally, thereby increasing their market value and creating jobs.
- Example: Establishing processing zones for agricultural products and mineral resources, turning Edo State into a center for both raw and processed goods.

4. Digital Infrastructure and E-Government Services:

- She proposes significant investment in digital infrastructure to ensure widespread internet access. This is a foundational step in supporting online education, telemedicine, e-commerce, and digital governance.
- Example: Implementing a statewide e-government platform that digitizes government services, making them more efficient and accessible to citizens.

5. Education-Industry Linkages:

- To ensure that education aligns with industry needs, Patience advocates for partnerships between educational institutions and the private sector. This will facilitate practical training, internships, and research collaborations.
- Example: A collaboration program between universities in Edo State and tech companies, providing students with real-world experience and research opportunities.

6. Promotion of Green Technologies and Sustainable Practices:

- Understanding the global shift towards sustainability, her strategy includes promoting green technologies and environmentally friendly practices in industries and businesses.
- Example: Incentives for companies that adopt renewable energy sources and implement sustainable practices in their operations.



7. Enhancing Connectivity and Trade:

- To boost economic activities, Patience envisions improving the state's transport and logistics infrastructure, enhancing connectivity with national and international markets.
- Example: Upgrading the transport network, including roads and rail, to facilitate easier movement of goods and services.

8. Cultivating a Skilled Workforce:

- A key aspect of Patience's vision is the development of a skilled workforce trained to meet the demands of a modern economy. This involves vocational training programs, tech-skills development initiatives, and continuous learning opportunities.
- Example: Establishing vocational and technical training institutes focused on emerging technologies and industries.

In essence, Patience Ndidi Key's vision for economic and technological advancement in Edo State is a comprehensive strategy that integrates innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity. It's about creating an ecosystem where technology drives growth, natural resources are utilized responsibly, and entrepreneurship is nurtured, positioning Edo State as a leader in economic transformation and technological progress in Nigeria and beyond.

Each of these initiatives embodies a vision for a prosperous and inclusive Edo State. Through stakeholder collaboration, international partnerships, and community engagement, the outlined plans aim to transform Edo into a model state in Nigeria and Africa at large.

Rubber: A Cornerstone of Edo State's Economic and Industrial Development

Usefulness of Rubber:

Rubber is not just a commodity; it's a crucial building block in various industries globally. As a leading producer in Nigeria, Edo State is strategically positioned to make a substantial impact in the rubber industry. Its versatility extends from the automotive sector, where it's pivotal in tire manufacturing, to healthcare, where it's essential in creating various medical devices such as gloves, catheters, and tubing.

Benefits of Rubber Cultivation and Processing:

1. **Economic Growth:** The rubber industry in Edo State can be a major driver of economic growth. By expanding and modernizing rubber plantations and processing facilities, the state can significantly increase its export potential, contributing to a rise in GDP.
2. **Employment Opportunities:** Rubber cultivation and processing are labor-intensive, offering numerous direct and indirect employment opportunities. From plantation workers to factory employees, the industry can potentially reduce unemployment in the state by 10-15%.
3. **Local Industry Development:** The development of a robust local rubber processing industry can lead to the growth of various ancillary industries, from transportation and logistics to machinery and equipment manufacturing.

Derived Products from Rubber and Their Impact:

1. **Automotive Industry:** Beyond tires, rubber is critical in manufacturing hoses, belts, gaskets, and car mats. With the global automotive industry projected to grow, Edo State can position itself as a key supplier in this sector.
2. **Healthcare Products:** Medical grade rubber is used in making various healthcare products. With the increasing demand for medical supplies, especially post-pandemic, this presents a growing market.

3. **Consumer Goods:** Rubber is used in everyday items like footwear, sports equipment, and household items like rubber gloves and mats. These products have a vast consumer market, both domestically and internationally.
4. **Industrial Applications:** Rubber is essential in manufacturing seals, shock absorbers, and vibration dampening products in various industries, including machinery, construction, and electronics.
5. **Agricultural Applications:** Rubber is used in making irrigation equipment, storage containers, and various farm tools, contributing to the agricultural sector's efficiency.

Strategic Moves for Edo State:

1. **Investment in Technology:** We will adopt advanced technologies in rubber processing to enhance product quality and production efficiency, making Edo State's rubber products competitive globally.
2. **Research and Development:** Invest in R&D for new rubber-based products to open up new markets and applications to further diversify the economic benefits.
3. **Public-Private Partnerships:** Encourage partnerships between the government and private sector leading to investments in infrastructure and market development.
4. **Sustainability Practices:** Implement sustainable practices in rubber cultivation and processing to enhance the industry's environmental and social impact, appealing to a global market increasingly conscious of sustainability.

Rubber is not just a product for Edo State; it's an opportunity for transformative growth and development. By capitalizing on its potential in rubber production, Edo State cannot only boost its economy but also create a sustainable ecosystem of employment, innovation, and industrial growth, setting a benchmark in the global rubber industry.



Palm Nuts: A Keystone of Edo State's Agricultural and Industrial Economy

Usefulness of Palm Nuts:

Palm nuts, the kernels of oil palms, are a treasure trove of economic potential for Edo State. They are the primary source of palm oil, a highly versatile and widely used product in both culinary and industrial applications. The versatility of palm oil extends from the kitchen to the factory floor, making it a crucial commodity in global trade.

Benefits of the Palm Oil Industry:

1. **Economic Catalyst:** The palm oil industry stands as a pillar of Edo State's economy. It can act as a catalyst for economic diversification, reducing dependence on oil and gas revenues. The industry supports a supply chain that includes plantation management, processing, logistics, and marketing.
2. **Employment Generation:** With the expansion of palm oil production, there's a potential for significant job creation, both in rural and urban areas. This industry can provide livelihoods for thousands of residents, from plantation workers to processing plant technicians.
3. **Smallholder Farmer Involvement:** The industry offers opportunities for smallholder farmers, who can play a crucial role in the supply chain. This can lead to improved incomes and living standards for rural communities.

Derived Products and Their Impact:

1. **Culinary Uses:** Palm oil is a staple in many cuisines, used for cooking and frying. Its unique flavor and high heat tolerance make it a preferred choice in both household and commercial kitchens.
2. **Industrial Applications:** In the industrial sector, palm oil is used in the production of soaps, detergents, and other personal care products. Its properties make it a valuable ingredient in the manufacture of various household items.

3. **Palm Kernel Oil:** Extracted from the kernel of the palm nut, this oil is used in confectionery products, providing texture and flavor. It's also a key ingredient in pharmaceuticals and cosmetic products.
4. **Biofuels:** Palm oil is increasingly used as a biofuel, offering a renewable energy source. This not only diversifies the energy mix but also provides an eco-friendly fuel alternative.
5. **Animal Feed:** The by-products of palm oil production, like palm kernel cake, are used in animal feeds, contributing to the livestock industry.

Strategic Development in Edo State:

1. **Sustainable Practices:** The implementation of sustainable farming practices in palm oil production is crucial, which includes minimizing deforestation and promoting eco-friendly cultivation techniques.
2. **Research and Innovation:** We will invest in research to improve yield and develop new palm oil-based products to open new markets and increase the value of the palm oil industry.
3. **Value Addition:** Encourage the establishment of local processing plants for palm oil and its derivatives to enhance the industry's value chain, leading to higher income generation.
4. **Market Expansion:** Develop both domestic and international markets for Edo's palm oil products to ensure a steady demand, boosting the industry's growth.

Palm nuts and the palm oil industry hold immense potential for driving economic growth, creating employment opportunities, and fostering rural development in Edo State. By tapping into this potential with sustainable practices, innovation, and value addition, Edo State can position itself as a key player in the global palm oil market, contributing significantly to the state's economy and the well-being of its people.

Cocoa: Sweetening Edo State's Economic Prospects

Usefulness of Cocoa:

Cocoa beans from Edo State are more than just an agricultural product; they are a key ingredient in a global industry that delights millions. Known for its quality, Edo's cocoa plays a crucial role in the chocolate industry, a sector with a rich history and an ever-growing market. The versatility of cocoa extends well beyond the realm of confectionery, making it a valuable commodity in various industries.

Benefits of Cocoa Farming and Processing:

- 1. Economic Growth and Foreign Exchange:** Cocoa farming stands as a significant contributor to Edo State's economy. It offers the potential to be a major source of foreign exchange earnings. With the global chocolate market projected to reach billions of dollars, tapping into this industry can bring substantial economic benefits to the state.
- 2. Employment Opportunities:** Cocoa cultivation and processing can create numerous jobs in the agricultural sector, from farm workers to technicians in processing facilities. This can have a ripple effect on the local economy, boosting income and living standards, especially in rural areas.
- 3. Sustainable Development:** By adopting sustainable and environmentally friendly cocoa farming practices, Edo State can position itself as a producer of ethically sourced cocoa, appealing to a growing market of conscious consumers.

Derived Products and Their Impact:

- 1. Chocolate Industry:** The most famous derivative, chocolate, is not just a treat but a vast industry with diverse products ranging from luxury artisanal chocolates to mass-produced candy bars. Edo State can leverage its high-quality cocoa to partner with chocolate manufacturers locally and globally.



2. **Cocoa Butter:** Widely used in cosmetics and skincare products, cocoa butter is valued for its hydrating properties. Edo State's entry into the production of cocoa butter can tap into the global cosmetics market, diversifying its economic base.
3. **Health Products:** Cocoa is rich in antioxidants and is used in various health and wellness products. Developing a niche in this sector can position Edo as a supplier of high-quality cocoa for health supplements.
4. **Culinary Uses:** Beyond sweets, cocoa is used in savory dishes, offering a unique flavor profile for gourmet cooking. This opens opportunities in the culinary industry.

Strategic Development in Edo State:

1. **Modernization of Cocoa Farming:** Implement modern farming techniques, including improved seed varieties and sustainable farming practices, to increase yield and quality.
2. **Processing Facilities:** Establish local cocoa processing facilities to add value, allowing Edo State to export processed goods with higher economic value than raw cocoa.
3. **Market Expansion and Branding:** Develop a strong brand for Edo State cocoa and exploring both traditional and emerging markets to enhance its global presence. This includes tapping into markets for organic and fair-trade cocoa products.
4. **Research and Development:** Invest in research to improve crop resistance and explore new cocoa-based products to open additional revenue streams.
5. **Public-Private Partnerships:** Encourage partnerships between the government, local farmers, and international chocolate producers leading to investment in infrastructure, technology transfer, and market access.

Cocoa represents a sweet spot in Edo State's agricultural and economic landscape. By harnessing its full potential through sustainable cultivation, value addition, and strategic market engagement, Edo State can become a key player in the global cocoa and chocolate market, bringing economic prosperity and sustainable development to its communities.

Edo State's Timber and Wood Industry: Potential for a Global Furniture Hub

Edo State's vast timber resources position it uniquely to become a major player in the global furniture market. With proper investment and strategic development, Edo can transform its timber and wood sector into a thriving economic powerhouse, contributing significantly to the state's GDP and employment.

Current State and Potential of Timber Resources in Edo:

1. **Resource Abundance:** Edo State is endowed with extensive forest reserves, housing a variety of timber species. While exact figures vary, it's estimated that forests cover a significant portion of the state's land area, providing a renewable resource for the timber industry.
2. **Employment and Economic Growth:** The timber industry in Edo has the potential to create thousands of jobs, both directly and indirectly. By developing the timber sector, Edo State could potentially see a 10-15% increase in employment in this sector, significantly impacting the local economy.
3. **Quality of Wood:** Edo's forests contain high-quality hardwood and softwood, ideal for furniture making. The wood from these forests is known for its durability and aesthetic appeal, qualities highly sought after in the global furniture market.

Strategies for Transforming Edo into a Furniture Hub:

- 1. Modernization and Technology Adoption:** Our administration will invest in modern wood processing technology to increase the efficiency and output of timber products. Implementing technologies such as Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machinery can enhance precision in furniture making, thereby improving quality and competitiveness.
- 2. Sustainable Forest Management:** Implementing sustainable harvesting practices is crucial. This includes reforestation initiatives, ensuring that timber resources are not depleted. Sustainable practices can increase forest cover by up to 20-30% over the next decade.
- 3. Skill Development and Training:** Establish training centers for carpentry and woodwork to help develop a skilled workforce. Collaboration with technical colleges and universities to offer specialized courses in furniture design and production will ensure a steady supply of skilled labor.
- 4. Export and Market Expansion:** We will develop a robust export strategy for Edo-made furniture to tap into the global market. The global furniture market is projected to grow significantly, and capturing even a small percentage of this market can boost Edo's economy. Strategic marketing and participation in international trade fairs can increase export volumes by up to 25-30%.
- 5. Public-Private Partnerships:** We will encourage partnerships between the government and private sector leading to investment in infrastructure, such as improved transportation for timber and finished products, and establishment of industrial parks dedicated to furniture manufacturing.
- 6. Quality Standards and Branding:** We will set high standards for product quality and developing a unique brand for Edo furniture to help penetrate international markets. Emphasizing the unique designs, quality, and cultural significance of Edo furniture can create a niche market globally.



- 7. Eco-friendly and Innovative Designs:** In capitalizing on the global trend towards eco-friendly products, Edo's furniture industry can focus on sustainable and innovative designs, appealing to environmentally conscious consumers.

The transformation of Edo State into a global hub for furniture production and export is not only feasible but also potentially transformative for the state's economy. With its rich timber resources, Edo State can become a key player in the international furniture market, bringing economic growth, job creation, and sustainable development. This vision requires a holistic approach, combining sustainable resource management, technological advancement, skilled workforce development, and strategic market expansion. By realizing this potential, Edo State can make a significant mark on the global stage, contributing to its reputation as the "Heartbeat of Nigeria."

PNK Profile:

Patience Ndidi Key is a proud born Nigerian. She was born in Benin City on November 8, 1973. She is from Ekekhen in Igueben Local Government area in the Edo State and her late mom is from Achalla-Ibusa, Oshimili-North LGA in the Delta State. She is a family woman who prides herself on pouring into family first. Patience Ndidi Key is a Health Professional, Consultant, Agile/Scrum Master, an entrepreneur, a strategist, an influencer, a philanthropist, and a Humanitarian. She is the founder and CEO of P-Key Health Solutions Inc., Patch Systems Inc., and a non-profit, Patience Key Foundation Inc.

Patience attended Ezoti Primary School, St. Maria Goretti Girls Grammar School both in Benin City and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Geography and Regional Planning from Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State.

Her National Youth Service was at Ido-Ekiti in Ekiti State, after which she relocated to the United State due to marriage. She continued with education and earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Coppin State University, Maryland and an MBA from the University of Maryland, United States.



Patience is a business owner and a serial entrepreneur. She has served in corporate and non-profit organizations in C-suite and other high-level positions. In her professional leadership role, she employs and manages staff for direct patient care in private and hospital settings. She facilitates, motivates, and provides encouragement to teams for better creativity and improves the efficiency of development teams using Agile methodology.

Patience is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerians in Diaspora Chamber of Commerce (*NiDCC*). She is the brain behind *NiDCC*, a business institution project she envisioned, introduced, and nurtured during her leadership in NIDO Americas USA. *NiDCC* is a business community of professionals and industry experts in United States, Canada, Nigeria, Europe, South Africa, other African countries and around the world that aims to provide resources and cultivate relationships between entrepreneurs and global business leaders with a view to impacting lives, growing businesses, and catalyzing development.

Patience serves several Boards in advisory and executive capacity. She is a Fellow, Institute of Policy Management Development (FIPMD), member of Chief, female executives' network, Advisory Board Member, Global Initiative for Africa (GIAA), Advisory Board Member, Diamond Youth Transformation Initiative/Nigerian Youth Decide (DYTI/NYD), and Advisory Board Member, Youths Poll Initiative. She was the Office Project Manager, Infinity Nursing Services, Inc., Executive Director, Corporate Communications and Strategy, National eGovernment Strategist Nigeria Limited, worked and had clinical experiences at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Sinai Hospital, Maryland General Hospital, St. Agnes Hospital, Sheppard Pratt, and Genesis Healthcare. She was the first female Chairman Board of Directors (BOD), Nigerians in Diaspora Organization Americas (NIDOA) USA, former Member, Board of Trustees, NIDO Americas, Executive Director, NIDO Americas USA, served as the Vice President, International Association of Women (IAW), Bowie-Maryland Chapter, former Public Relations Officer (PRO), NIDO Americas USA, and the first and former President of NIDOA USA Maryland Chapter.



She has received numerous awards and honors for Leadership Excellence, Lifetime Achievement Award from the President of United States, President Joseph R. Biden Jr., Certificate of Honor for immense contribution to Nigeria's Development and dedicated partnership with Nigeria Consulate New York from Ambassador of Nigeria to Cuba and former Consul General of Nigeria, New York, Amb. Benaoyagha Okoyen, Award of Excellence from the University of Benin, Post-Graduate school, a Proclamation from the Mayor of New York City, Eric Adams, a Certificate of Honor from Ras Baraka, Mayor of City of Newark, Global Innovation Award from Caribbean and African Leadership Conference, Transformative and Visionary Leadership Award from NIDOA/NIDO-NJ, Agent of Social Change from African Women Impact Summit, Who is Who Diaspora, Exceptional Leadership, Woman of Influence, Visionary Leader and more.

She speaks with passion, and she is engaged in conversations across community, business, and government platforms. Patience has spoken on global platforms on critical topics involving Healthcare Reforms, Ways to Combat Human Trafficking, Environmental Management and Remediation, Quality Education & Skills Training, the Strength and Voice of Nigerians in Diaspora, Maximizing the Potential of Nigerians in Diaspora, Women in Leadership and many more.

As an avid communicator, she has written newspaper articles, press releases, participated in peace protests, condemned insecurity, insurgency, condemned the killing of innocent Youths during the EndSars Peace protest in Nigeria, abduction of the Chibok Girls, Leah Sharibu, various kidnaps/abductions, Herdsmen, and other issues bothering on the Nigerian people and economy. Advised on productive measures and held stakeholder meetings with past Nigerian government during Diaspora Day and more.

In her former position as NIDO Americas USA Chairman, Patience initiated and led NIDO Americas USA Strategic Townhall Meetings; "The Strength and Voice of the Nigerian Diaspora" and visited several states in the US advocating for unity among Nigerians in the Diaspora and the essential need for National growth and development of the homeland, Nigeria. She facilitated and led the first NIDO Americas USA Annual Summit & AGM. Organized palliatives interventions in Nigeria during the pandemic lockdown.



She initiated the creation of Nigerians in Diaspora Chamber of Commerce to integrate Nigerian and American/Western owned businesses. Proposed the creation of food banks in Nigeria to curb hunger, poverty, and increase agricultural produce and supply locally. Provided leadership and mentorship to several youth organizations in the US and Nigeria to foster the spirit of patriotism, create awareness, entrepreneurship, and skills training.

Patience led a delegation of Nigerian professionals in the US to educate graduate student from the United States War College, DC on various topics relevant to their final graduate school projects on Nigeria. Worked with Some United States Congress Members to address issues on insecurity, killings, and abuse of human rights in Nigeria. Led the first NIDO Americas USA medical mission in Nigeria in collaboration with a US based organization. Partnered with the US State Department and the State of Maryland/Governor's office on Community outreach in Maryland. Organized events/conferences for the unification of Nigerians in the United States. Interacted and coordinated with the Nigeria Diplomatic Mission on the Welfare of Nigerians in the United States. Initiated the creation of the platform for the Database of Nigerians in the United States and many more engagements.

Her life skills and career competencies are matched with an MBA, University of Maryland, USA, graduate program in Public Health, USA, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Coppin State University, MD – USA, and Bachelor of Science in Geography and Regional Planning, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma-Nigeria.

Certified Scrum Master, Agile Project Management, Project Management, Leadership Fundamentals, Entrepreneurship, Digital Economy and more. Patience is still acquiring knowledge and skills.

As a goal oriented and project focused leader, Patience is eager to move the needle on a variety of subjects cutting across and blending her passion of helping others both locally and globally into the work that she does every day.

I am Patience Ndididi Key and I approve this message!!!