

An Era of Policy and Institutional ReformsFact Sheet No. 2, July-A 2022

Okowanomics Scorecard Series is a semi-monthly bulletin of fact sheets showing Governor Okowa's landmark legacy achievements. The series is prepared by Delta State Job & Wealth Creation Bureau.

This Fact Sheet No. 2 in the Okowanomics Scorecard Series focuses on policy and institutional reforms which form the taproot of the spectacular development strides that have been achieved under the effective leadership of His Excellency, Senator Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa, Governor of Delta State, since his assumption of office on 29th May 2015.

As recap of our working definition, Okowanonics refers to Governor Okowa's developmental philosophy and governance ideology defined by his people-centred approach, political mastery, economic prudence and social intelligence. Underlying Okowanomics is Governor Okowa's exceptional assortment of personality and character virtues notably critical thinking, clear foresight, sound planning, effective execution, clever coordination, humility, self-discipline, people skills and executive intelligence.

By classical definition, policy and institutional reforms imply inventive changes, amendments and revisions to existing framework polices, organizations, methods and laws or the enactment of new framework policies, organizations, methods and laws. Such inventive changes, amendments or revisions are aimed at predetermined development goals, objectives and targets – improvement of existing situations, creation of new and better conditions, elimination of undesirable conditions and replacement with desirable conditions.

Linking policy and programme execution to policy and institutional reforms is one of the essential ingredients of Okowanomics, consistent with the scientific tenet for policy practice. The fact that reforms were conceived, formulated and enacted, as the initial basis for execution of policies and programmes, reflects first-rate critical thinking, clear foresight and disciplined planning culture of Okowanomics. It is a truism that development outcomes become real, enduring and sustainable if and where they are built on solid, genuine and legitimate policy, legal and institutional foundations, as exemplified by Okowanomics.

This brief therefore profiles, in a tabular format, an illustrative sample of policy and institutional reforms that constitute the foundation of the outstanding Okowanomics scorecard across the various sectors, since 2015.

A Sample of Governor Okowa's Policy and Institutional Reforms

Year of Reform	Instrument of Reform	Purpose of Reform	Aspect of SMART Agenda
June 2015	Establishment of Office of the Chief Job Creation Officer	Special Purpose Vehicle created to plan, design and implement youth-focused job and wealth creation programmes	Job & Wealth Creation
July 2015	Delta State Capital Territory Development Agency Law	Superintend and facilitate sustainable development of Asaba capital territory [infrastructure, public utilities and services, etc.]	Urban Renewal
July 2015	Board for Technical and Vocational Education Law	Revive, manage and regulate technical colleges and vocational training centres	Education Policy
August 2015	Delta State Peace Building and Advisory Council	Foster peace and conflict prevention and resolution in the state	Peace building, political and social stability
September 2015	Delta State Medium Term Development Plan 2016- 2019	Provides the strategic plan, roadmap, policy priorities and benchmarks for social, infrastructural and economic development based on the SMART AGENDA	Development planning
February 2016	Delta State Contributory Health Commission Law	Establish Delta State Contributory Health Commission and Contributory Health Insurance Scheme universal health coverage	Health for All Deltans (HeFAD) – Health Policies
April 2016	Inauguration of Delta State Traffic Management Authority	Control road traffic and enforce road traffic regulations Ensure free flow of road (vehicular) traffic and safety of all road users	Conducive Business Environment
May 2016	Advocacy Committee Against Vandalism of Oil and Gas Facilities	Engage and dialogue with oil producing communities and other relevant actors for the protection and security of oil and gas facilities and personnel	Peace building, political and social stability
August 2016	Delta State Anti- Kidnapping and Hostage- Taking Law	Curb the incidence of kidnapping and related crimes	Security and social stability
November 2016	Delta State Agriculture and Rural Development Agency (Amendment) Law	Refocus, realign and strengthen existing Agricultural Development Programme for greater relevance, efficiency and effectiveness	Agricultural Reforms
December 2016	Delta State Anti-Terrorism and Anti-Cultism Law	Curb terrorist and cult-related violence and killings	Security and social stability
August 2017	Delta State Investment Development Agency Law	Facilitate private sector investments and promote public private partnerships	Conducive Business Environment
August 2018	Delta State Public and Private Property Protection Law	Protection of, eliminate undue interference or obstruction to public and private property and thereby ensure conducive business investment environment	Conducive Business Environment

Year of Reform	Instrument of Reform	Purpose of Reform	Aspect of SMART Agenda
July 2019	Warri/Uvwie and Environs Area Development Agency Law	Superintend and facilitate sustainable development of Warri/Uvwie and Environs [infrastructure, public utilities and services, etc.]	Urban Renewal
September 2019	Delta State Job and Wealth Creation Bureau Law	Institutionalize and strengthen the existing Office of the Chief Job Creation Officer	Job and Wealth Creation
November 2019	Ministry of Youth Development	Upgrading of the Directorate of Youth Development to Ministry of Youth Development to strengthen and broaden its mandate	Youth Development for Wealth Creation
April 2020	Public Procurement Law	Transparency and accountability of public procurement	Public Procurement
May 2020	Delta State Fiscal Responsibility (Amendment) Law	Fiscal planning, budgetary responsibility and debt management	Fiscal policy
June 2020	Delta State Internal Revenue Service Law	Autonomy and professional management of the state's revenue collection agency in line with best practice	Public Revenue and Fiscal Policy
September 2020	Delta State Medium-Term Development Plan 2020-2023	Successor to the Delta State Medium-Term Development Plan 2016-2019.	Development Planning
		Policy Framework and Implementation Roadmap for a "Stronger Delta"	
March 2021	Delta State University of Science & Technology, Ozoro Law	Access to university education as the bastion of human capital development	Education Policy
	University of Delta, Agbor Law		
	Dennis Osadebay University Asaba Law		
July 2021	Delta State Audit Law	Independent examination of public expenditure by granting financial and operational autonomy to Offices of Auditors-General [State and Local Governments]	Public Accounts
August 2021	House of Assembly Service Law	Staff establishment and institutional management of the House of Assembly	Legislature
September 2021	Delta State Judiciary Fund Management (Financial Autonomy) Law	Financial autonomy to the judiciary arm of government	Judiciary
October 2021	Urban and Regional Planning Board Law	Sustainable development of urban areas through better regulation and enforcement mechanisms	Urban Renewal

This broad, though not exhaustive, diary of policy and institutional reforms shows that His Excellency, Senator Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa, Governor of Delta State, is a pacesetter in development-enhancing reforms. Also, the foregoing sample of cross-sector legal instruments illustrate that the development strides achieved since 2015 are products of good intellect (good thinking).

The implication of these extant legal frameworks is that current policies and programmes are not superficial in nature. Rather they have become duly legitimized and entrenched for sustainability into the future.

Herein lies the novelty, peculiarity and robustness of the Okowanomcis scorecard (i) the outcomes in

and impacts are not superficial but deeply rooted the legitimate development aspirations and desires of Deltans (ii) the policies and programmes are embedded in laws enacted by the people's elected representatives in the Delta State House of Assembly (iii) the connection between policies, programmes and the enabling legal and institutional frameworks stands out as a typical example of good governance.

No doubt, therefore, the Okowanomics development outcomes together with their policy and institutional reform taproots demonstrate a development model that should be emulated by other states of the country and at the national level.

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