



■ MBADINUJU: DESTINY FULFILLED

NATIONAL Ambassador

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COP28 AND PLANET EARTH'S SURVIVAL



SECTORAL PEEP INTO GOV. OTTI'S ADMINISTRATION



■ IGBO'S AND THE NATIONAL QUESTION

**INTERIM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
ARIARIA INTERNATIONAL MARKET ABA,
ABIA STATE**

Merry Christmas
Hurray!!!!

It's Christmas: the season of care, love and peace

The Chairman and the interim management committee of Ariaria International Market, Aba, Abia State heartily felicitate with the entire global Christian community on the birth of our saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is also an opportunity to celebrate the unprecedented era of infrastructural development, peace and love ushered in by the administration of the people's oriented government of his Excellency, Dr Alex Chioma Otti (OFR).

We are indeed proud to be part of a history in the making in God's Own State, Abia. Once again, a big merry Christmas and happy prosperous New Year celebration to you all.

Comrade Chikadibia Ozoekwe
Chairman



Comrade Chikadibia Ozoekwe's strides in Ariaria Int'l Market Aba



Contents

	Content Page	03
	COP28 And Planet Earth's Survival	04
	Igbo's And The National Question	07
	Mbadinuju: Destiny Fulfilled	10
	Sectoral Peep Into He. Dr. Otti's Administration Gov. Otti's 2024 "Budget Of New Beginning"	22
	Sectoral Peep Into He. Dr. Otti's Administration Abia State Due Process: The Untold Story Of Great Strides.	24
	Sectoral Peep Into He. Dr. Otti's Administration ABSCOHMAT Graduates Certified Professional Humanitarians	27
	Sectoral Peep Into He. Dr. Otti's Administration ARTSMA: In A Quest To Humanize Road Safety And Traffic Management	29
	Sectoral Peep Into He. Dr. Otti's Administration Festival Of Nine Lessons Enlivens Umuahia With Christmas Carols.	31
	Sectoral Peep Into He. Dr. Otti's Administration Alex Otti's Sporting Accomplishments In 2023	34
	Sports 2023 CAF AWARDS:	35

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Cover Story

COP28 AND PLANET EARTH'S SURVIVAL

By: Jones Nnanna Ike

Bob Dawnte one of the contemporary writers on planet earth recently asserted that "Our Species have done nothing for the benefit of life on earth. On the contrary, our activities have damaged the environment and made it less hospitable for other species".

While this assertion may not be completely true, it is correct to state that man's quest to survive has had very disastrous consequences for planet earth. Yet this is not supposed to be so for many varying reasons.

The Earth is still the only planet amongst the several others that has all the ingredients to enable the existence of biological life.

Despite billions of dollars that have been poured into solar exploration, there is yet to be discovered any such planet that has the ingredient to enable biological life.

The biological life on earth is made possible because of the existence of two vital ingredients Air (Oxygen) and Water.

Water

Life on earth would be impossible

The Earth is still the only planet amongst the several others that has all the ingredients to enable the existence of biological life.



70% of the earth surface and contains 97% of all water on earth.

Earth would not be the same planet without its Oceans. The Ocean plays a vital role in climate and weather conditions.

The Oceans and the atmosphere keep the Earth's surface temperature relatively constant worldwide. The Oceans along with the atmosphere distribute heat around the planet. The Oceans absorb the heat near the equator and then transport that solar energy to polar regions. The Oceans also moderate the climate within a region. At the same altitude, the temperature range is smaller along coastal areas than inland areas. Along coastal areas, summer

without water especially fresh water. In fact, the largest component of all living things is water. Oceans, Lakes, Rivers, Wetlands and Underground activities provide drinking water for humans and animals. Water is also essential for plants survival.

However, even though most of planet earth is covered with water, only about 0.5% of water on earth is useable and available as fresh water.

Even with this relatively small quantity, fresh water should be enough for life on earth but much of it, is either polluted or being inaccessible as a result

of increased demand and climate change.

In fact, experts predict that within the next 30 years, five billion people may not have adequate access to fresh water. Even though a lot of efforts are ongoing to give a lot more people access to fresh water, millions of people still live out their lives without access to fresh water. In a 2021 Report about water management from a United Nation's source, it was stated that "Globally, the current rate of progress needs to be doubled.

On the other hand, Oceans constitute

temperatures are not as hot; and winter temperatures are not as cold because water takes longer periods to heat up or cool down.

The Oceans are also an essential part of earth's water cycle. Since they cover so much of the planet Earth, most evaporation comes from the ocean and most precipitation falls on the oceans.

The Oceans are also home to an enormous amount of life (That is they have tremendous biodiversity. Tiny ocean plants create the base of a food web that supports all sorts of life forms). As a result marine life makes up most of all biomass on Earth. Biomass is the total mass of living organisms in a given area. These organisms supply us with food and even the oxygen created by plant forms.

From the shoreline to the deepest sea floor, the Ocean teems with various life forms. The hundreds of thousands of marine species range from microscopic algae to the largest creature to have lived on Earth, the blue whale.

The sunlight in the epipelagic zone allows photosynthesis to occur (photosynthesis is the process by which some organisms convert sunlight and carbon dioxide into energy and oxygen). In the Ocean, photosynthesis takes place in plants and algae.

Continued on the next page



Cover Story

COP28 AND PLANET EARTH'S SURVIVAL

Plants such as sea grass are similar to land plants. They have roots, stems and leaves. Algae is a type of aquatic organism that can photosynthesize sunlight. Large algae such as kelp are called seaweed. Phytoplankton are microscopic organisms that include plants, algae and bacteria. They are only visible when billions of them form algal blooms and appear as green or blue splotches in the Ocean.

Phytoplankton form the basis of the Ocean food web. Through photosynthesis, phytoplankton are responsible for almost half the oxygen released into Earth's atmosphere. Animals such as krill (a type of shrimp), fish and microscopic organisms called zooplanktons all eat phytoplankton. In turn, these animals are eaten by whales, bigger fishes, ocean birds and human beings.

Over the years the Oceans have been so mismanaged by humans to such an extent that such misuse is posing serious threat to life on earth. Such misuse appears in several forms but the most significant are the following:

1. Pollution from oil drillings.

a. Offshore oil drilling.

Oil is one of the most valuable resources that is taken from the ocean today.

Offshore oil rigs pump petroleum from wells drilled into the continental shelf. Experts estimate that about a quarter of all oil and natural gas supplies now come from offshore oil deposits around

the world.

However, offshore drillings also pose serious threats to the Ocean's ecosystem. Spills and oil tankers that transport the material seriously harm marine mammals and birds. Oil coats feathers, impairing birds' ability to maintain their body temperature and remain buoyant in the water. The fur of otters and seals are also coated and oil entering the digestive track of animals may damage their organs.

Offshore oil rigs also release metal

and even lawn mowers spill oil and grease on roads, streets and highways. Storm drains or creeks wash the run off into local water ways which eventually flow into the ocean.

c. The ocean as a dumping ground for sewage and other wastes.

For centuries, people have used the ocean as a dumping ground for sewage and other wastes. In the 21st century, the wastes includes not only oil but also chemical run off from factories and agriculture. These chemicals include

and repackaging materials put marine life at risk. Sea animals are harmed by the plastics either by getting tangled in it or by eating it.

3. Another source of pollution is carbon dioxide.

The ocean absorbs most carbon dioxides from the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide forms many acids called carbonic acids in the ocean. Ocean ecosystems have adapted to the presence of certain levels of carbonic acids, but the increase in carbon dioxide has led to an increase in ocean acids. This ocean acidification erodes the shells of animals such as clams, crabs and corals.

4. Global warming

Global warming contributes to rising ocean temperatures and sea levels. Warmer oceans radically alter the ecosystem. Global warming causes cold-water habitats to shrink, meaning there is less room for animals such as penguins, seal or whales. Plankton, the base of ocean food chain thrives in cold water. Warming water means there will be less plankton available for marine life. Melting glaciers and ice sheets also contribute to sea level rise. Rising sea level threaten coastal ecosystems and property. Such rise puts River Delta's and Estuaries at the risk of flooding thereby causing coasts to stand the risk of suffering erosion and other disasters. Such flooding also contaminates fresh water sources as sea water contains a lot of contaminants.

All these come with consequences-flooding, erosion and water contaminants which put low lying communities and island nations at the risk of disaster.

In all, it could be said that even though the Ocean is vast, it is more easily polluted and damaged than people thought. It requires care and protection as well as expert management. It is only then, can it continue to provide the many resources that living things including people need which in itself is very important in guaranting the existence of life forms on planet earth.



Marine Lives

cuttings and minute amounts of oil and drilling fluid into the ocean every day (Drilling fluid is the liquid used with machinery to drill holes deep into the ocean floor. This liquid can contain pollutants such as toxic chemicals and heavy metals.

b. Most oil pollution also comes from the run off pollutants into the streams and rivers that flow into the ocean. Most run off pollutants come from individual consumers, cars, buses, motorcycles

nitrites and phosphates which are often used as fertilizers. These chemicals encourage algae bloom (An algae bloom is an increase in algae and bacteria that threatens plants and other marine life).

Algae blooms limit the amount of oxygen in a marine environment leading to what are known as dead zones where little life exist beneath the ocean surface. Algae blooms can spread across hundreds or even thousands of miles.

2. Plastics

Another source of pollution is plastics. Most ocean debris or garbage is plastic thrown out by consumers. Plastics such as water bottles, bags, six-pack rings

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Plastics

Continued on the next page

Cover Story

COP28 AND PLANET EARTH'S SURVIVAL

Air is the invisible mixture of gases that surround the earth. Air contains important substances such as oxygen and nitrogen that most species need to survive. Nitrogen and oxygen make up about 99 percent of earth's air. People and animals need oxygen to live. Carbon dioxide, a gas that plants depend on, make up less than 0.04 percent. Plants and animals each produce the gases that the other needs to live. Plants need carbon dioxide- which humans and other animals exhale as a waste. Humans and plants need oxygen which is produced by plants in an important process called photosynthesis, that turns the Sun's energy into nutrients. Without oxygen that we breathe, life on earth cannot be possible.

Air and water are the two most important ingredients that enable life on earth.

However, we need air not just for breathing. Air shields our planet from most of the sun's harmful radiation. And without air, temperature's around the world would plunge below freezing points.

The air is different as you move higher and higher into the atmosphere. The air gets thinner as elevation climbs because there are few air molecules up there.

High in the stratosphere, a layer of earth's atmosphere, is a special air molecule called ozone. Ozone is made up of three atoms of oxygen. The massive collection of these molecules is called the ozone layer.

The ozone layer blocks harmful ultraviolet or UV rays, so that the sun's powerful radiation does less damage to living things on earth.

However, this balance occasioned by the ozone layer which is very important for the survival of planet earth as the only home for all living creatures has been upset by continuous assault on the balance due to air pollution.

Air pollution refers to the release of pollutants into the air- Pollutants that are detrimental to human health and the planet as a whole. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), each year indoor and outdoor air pollution is responsible for nearly seven million deaths around the globe.

Air pollution has a negative effect on the air we breathe.

Air pollution happens when harmful by products like exhaust fumes from cars enter the air or smoke from industries. These pollutants can clog the atmosphere with smog or a combination of smoke and fog. They can also create toxic clouds of dust. Other air pollutants, such as methane and excess amounts of carbon dioxide can offset the balance of molecules in the air thereby contributing to global warming.

Air pollution poses a deadly threat to life on earth. Experts estimate that only one percent of earth's population is breathing air that meets the World Health Organization standards of safety. Air



pollution has been linked to respiratory illness, lung cancer and cardiovascular diseases. Air pollution is responsible for 7 million premature deaths each year.

It has also been estimated that 99% percent of human beings currently breathe air that exceeds the WHO's guideline limits for pollutants with those living in low and middle-income countries suffering the most.

Many human-shaped ecosystems support high levels of biodiversity. However, humans are also responsible for the

the "Anthropocene extinction" and it is also known that we are now responsible for increasing the normal rate of extinction by a factor of at least 100.

Scientists have warned that unless we modify our behaviour and reduce our ecological footprint, it is possible that our activities will also lead to human extinction. They also warned that life on earth would continue without humans and biodiversity will return.

Humans can stop such a brink if they correct their present mistakes. There is an

⌚ Air pollution poses a deadly threat to life on earth. Experts estimate that only one percent of earth's population is breathing air that meets the World Health Organization standards of safety. Air pollution has been linked to respiratory illness, lung cancer and cardiovascular diseases. Air pollution is responsible for 7 million premature deaths each year.

imperative mission in this, in the sense that humans are the only species that are imbued with the capacity to protect the earth. The various conferences on climate changes are only few of such efforts that is aimed at protecting planet earth. The imperative for global leaders to confront the climate crisis is underscored by the undeniable

and escalating impact of climate change not only on the environment but also on physical and mental health of humans. The ongoing reliance on fossil fuels not only jeopardize our health but also propels global temperatures to rise to unprecedented levels. Recent climate

related events including extreme weather condition, food insecurity, water scarcity and heightened air pollution are all resulting directly from greenhouse gas emissions. These consequences, experienced globally may only foreshadow more severe catastrophes.

Despite 27 years of climate change negotiations, world leaders remain resistant to recognizing the urgency of phasing out fossil fuels. Despite compelling evidence indicating an imminent catastrophe, leaders assembled at the United Nations Climate Change Conference remain unwilling to acknowledge the critical necessity of phasing out fossil fuels.

The draft statement on climate change and health which held in Dubai (COP 28) omitted many references to this critical issue thereby signaling a concerning disregard for an overwhelming evidence of the damage caused to planet earth by fossil fuel use.

As countries and companies backtrack on climate commitments, global emissions surge putting us on a trajectory towards a nearly 3°C temperature increase by 2100 well above the 1.5°C target by the Paris agreement. The potential repercussions could be quite catastrophic for planet earth and all the species living therein.

Addressing the earth crises incrementally is insufficient. Urgent shifting away from fossil fuels is imperative to solving the climate change crises. COP 28 represents a pivotal test of leaders' commitment to addressing climate change just as well as it symbolizes the most organized effort to save the earth.

Continued on the next page

Cover Story

IGBO'S AND THE NATIONAL QUESTION

By: Abia Onyike and Jones Ike

The National Question could be defined as the complexities and contradictions that arose as a result of the amalgamation into one unwieldy polity or nation state of several incompatible nationalities who lost their natural right to govern themselves, (their sovereignty) and thus the right to develop in ways suited to their own ways and speed.

It is also important to note that the national question in Nigeria is compounded by the fact of its arising from both colonialism and indigenous rule.

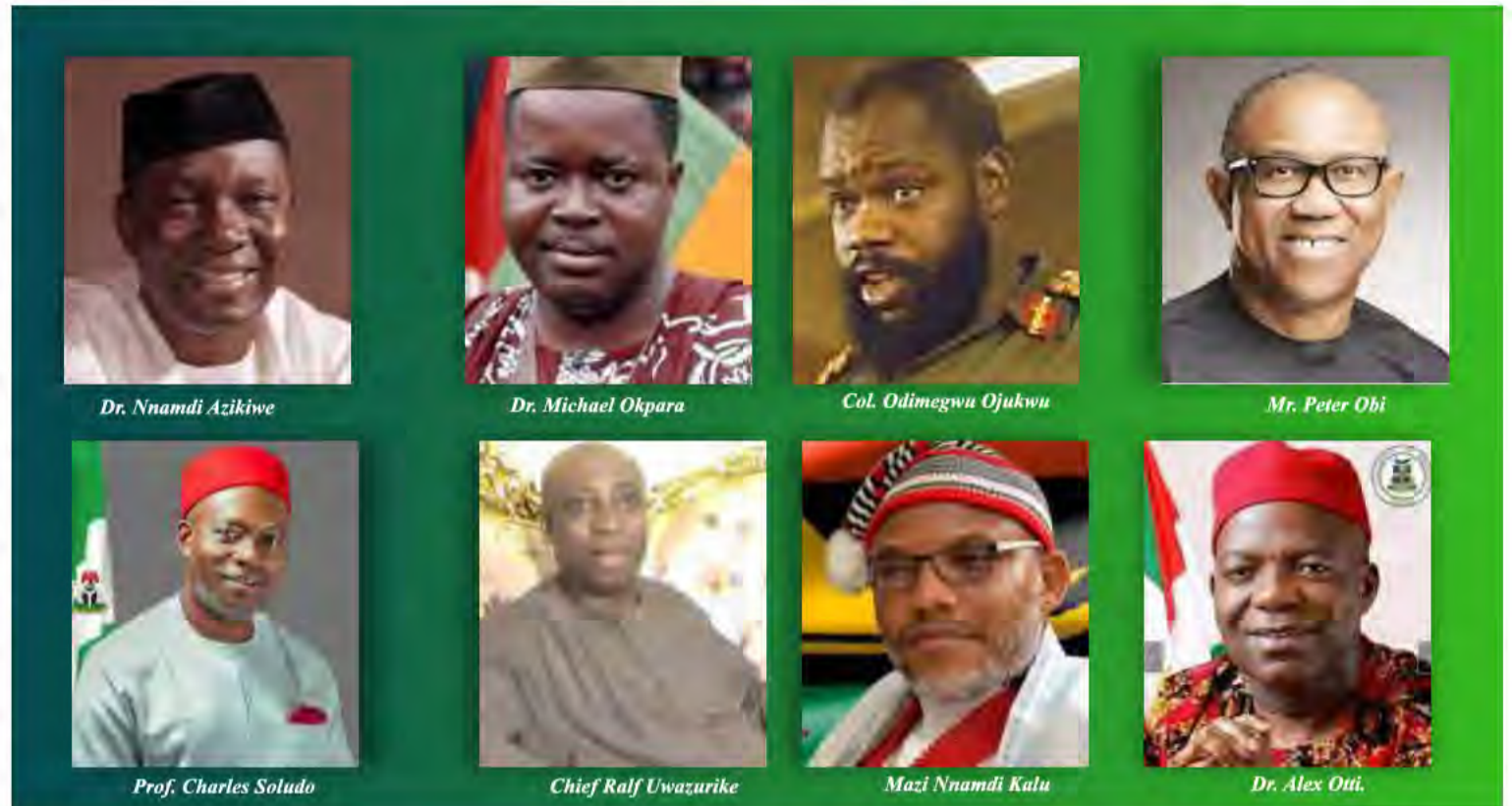
There has been for too long the imposition on the people of Nigeria of an inoperable unitary state structure under the guise of a Federal Republic. It has to be noted however that before the British granted her Independence in 1960, the governance of the country was made difficult by the persistence of the national question. In fact, before the emergence of Biafra and the Civil War that ensued between 1967 -1970, the politics of the country was marked by various forms of the demand for self-determination.

Indeed, the history of Nigeria is replete with the ever-recurring drama of the national question. It has always been a predominating feature of both pre- and post-Independent Nigeria. It has always been all encompassing and all embracing.

Many Nigerians including University academics, Journalists, Legal luminaries and Politicians have always failed to apprehend the issue as all-embracing. Because of this ignorance, it has been all too often the case that whereas the demand for self-determination which includes the right to develop according to local pace is within the natural rights of the different nationalities as well as being all too embracing and all too engulfing. There has also been a tendency amongst opportunistic sections of the elite to differentiate the recurring local nationalism artificially as between good and evil.

Despite such attempts at undermining the issue with empty advocacy of national unity, the episodes in the country's history that exemplify the separatist tendency in Nigeria's national politics are still quite fresh in our memory.

In the 1950's, while the struggle for Independence was approaching, the Hausa-Fulani Oligarchy that ruled the North did demand to be left out, claiming that their part of the country was not yet ready for Independence. Of



course, there was a separatist or succession implication to that demand and it was within their right, if the matter was to be analyzed more objectively. After all, in the beginning, before their amalgamation with the South in 1914, the North was not one country with the South. So, if the South was getting too fast in their demand for self-determination it was levying on behalf of both regions, the North was within their right to refuse to subscribe to it.

However, during the various negotiations for Independence, a great deal of common sense prevailed and the Independent Federation of Nigeria was structured in such a way as to allow the

regions a considerable measure of autonomy.

It is also good to note that the major aim of the counter coup of July 1966 in which General Aguiyi Ironsi, the then Military Head of State of Igbo origin was overthrown and killed was to pull the North out of the Nigerian federation. Araba was the ultimate aim. This is also not forgetting that the series of complaints by the Ijaws who occupy the southern coast of Nigeria had culminated in an armed rebellion led by a young charismatic Student Union leader, Isaac Adaka Boro. The young secessionist had declared a Yenagoa Republic in 1966. The rebellion was quickly crushed by the federal army.

There has been for too long the imposition on the people of Nigeria of an inoperable unitary state structure under the guise of a Federal Republic. It has to be noted however that before the British granted her Independence in 1960, the governance of the country was made difficult by the persistence of the national question.

The defunct Republic of Biafra still remains till date, the height of secessionist agitations in which the contradictions of the national question were most apparent.

Since the defeat of the Igbo's in their war of Independence in 1970, there has continued to be an imprint or separatist politics on most moves of the major players. It was such philosophy that informed the adoption of Sharia laws by far North Muslim states starting with Zamfara state in 2000. The implementation of the Islamic legal code (Sharia) was taken a shade higher when Islamic fundamental groups such as Boko Haram started a separatist war in the North East Region of the country sometime in 2010. The war has consumed trillions of naira. Its human cost is in thousands while billions of naira worth of property has been destroyed.

This is also not forgetting the secessionist threat of Gideon Orka in 1990, when he attempted a military coup d'etat against the Government of Gen. Ibrahim Babaginda. He told a bewildered nation that he had come to grant some of the far Northern States opportunity to leave the country in the interest of peace. Though the coup was aborted, the fact remains that the war of the sharia has shown that the North still remains the engine room of separatist agitation in Nigeria.

It also has to be reiterated that it is the response to the national question crisis that informs the separatist agitation movements of the South West Region of the country.

Continued on the next page

Cover Story

IGBO'S AND THE NATIONAL QUESTION

Currently, Igbo response to the contradictions inherent in the National question has come from two main ideological opposites. The first and mainstream is championed by the Ohaneze Ndi Igbo- the mainstream umbrella body of the Igbo nation. The Ohaneze Ndi Igbo which is a re-incarnation of the pre-war Igbo State Union is made of the Igbo leaders in Government, Business, Traditional Institutions, the Clergy, Leaders in the Academia and Politics, the Labour and Market Unions, the Civil Service, etc. The Ohaneze Ndi Igbo has over the years sought the reconciliation of the national question within the context of maintaining the Nigeria polity as one sovereign state. The Ohaneze Ndi Igbo

sense that Ohaneze have found allies in their quest with other regional groupings such as the Middle Belt forum, the South West based Afenifere, the SouthSouth based PANDEF, etc. On the other hand, Ohaneze's ideological opposite movements coalesced into MASSOB and IPOB. These radical movements are mass based organizations that have attracted the attention and membership of the younger generation of the Igbo population

Members of these Movements and their supporters are of the conviction that nothing good would come with the continuous experimentation with one Nigeria. They believe that Igbo's have suffered untold hardship in Nigeria and will only be better off with the re-establishment of the Sovereign State of Biafra. This perspective on the Igbo response to the national question was kick-started by Chief Ralph Uwazurike with his formation of the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) sometime in the year 2000.

The formation of MASSOB came into existence as a direct aftermath of the implementation of the Sharia legal code by the Muslim States led by Zamfara State whose then Governor, Alhaji

Sani Yerima was the Chief Proponent of the implementation of the Islamic legal code.

The formation of MASSOB proved most capable of commanding public attention all over the country and the reasons were quite obvious. Though MASSOB had no real potential to levy war against the Nigerian State, yet it had the advantage of using Biafra whose historical antecedents are to



Igbo Traditional Rulers

The Ohaneze Ndi Igbo has over the years sought the reconciliation of the national question within the context of maintaining the Nigeria polity as one sovereign state. The Ohaneze Ndi Igbo is an ardent advocate of a restructured and balanced federation where everybody's right is guaranteed under the law no matter the religion, class or ethnicity.

Government DSS facility at Abuja even though the courts have freed him. However, on the positive side, the emergence of IPOB and its militant approach to the national question has now awakened the main umbrella body of the Igbo's, Ohaneze, into a more robust activism in resolving the national question.

The alliance of Ohaneze with Afenifere, the PANDEF and the Middle Belt Forum has already paid off in guaranteeing a Southern presidency which was nearly scuttled by northern Hege monists during the last 2023 presidential elections.

The contemporary main challenge of the Igbo's in their response to the national question still remains how to reconcile the differing ideological position between Ohaneze and the Separatist movements now led by IPOB. The reconciliation of ideological positions on the national question between Ohaneze and IPOB and other separatist groups is very important because the substantives issues raised by the recurring problems of the national question is still quite urgent and threatening.

Currently, the leader of the group is still being incarcerated in a Federal

Government DSS facility at Abuja even though the courts have freed him.

However, on the positive side, the emergence of IPOB and its militant approach to the national question has now awakened the main umbrella body of the Igbo's, Ohaneze, into a more robust activism in resolving the national question.

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President Bola Ahmed Tinubu

is an ardent advocate of a restructured and balanced federation where everybody's right is guaranteed under the law no matter the religion, class or ethnicity. The apex Igbo socio cultural body is of the view that Igbo's having a large migrant population and businesses all over the country are better off in a restructured and balanced federation in which fairness, equity and justice is guaranteed to all. It is in this



Afenifere leaders of the southwest

Continued on the next page

Cover Story

IGBO'S AND THE NATIONAL QUESTION

It is also the underlying cause of the widespread insecurity which the South East is presently suffering from.

It is also good to note that the Ohaneze leadership led by Chief Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu has been engaging the Federal Government on the possible release of the IPOB leader, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu. It is expected that such reconciliatory attempt by Ohaneze should attract similar response from IPOB and pave the way for a re-approachment between the two bodies. A re-approachment between the Ohaneze and IPOB is indeed an imperative for building an Igbo consensus in their response to the national question crises. Such consensus is important for dismantling the unitary structure of Nigeria which has been the clog for any genuine effort to give Nigerians democracy and development.

Most importantly, it is our firm conviction that the Igbo leadership in the different Ideological divides should listen and learn useful lessons from the wise counsel of Igbo renown Journalist, Writer, Poet, Literary Critic and University Academic Prof. Obi Nwakanma in his recent treatise titled thus "What Do The Igbo's Want" when in the concluding part of the long essay he asserted thus " "However, although I do think that the Igbo would do quite well alone, they could do a lot better with Nigeria, if the conditions are right. This agitation is for the conditions to be made right; for Nigeria and its political and economic policies to stop being a wedge on Igbo aspirations. And Igbo aspiration is quite simple: to match the rest of the developed world inch by every inch, and not to be held down by the Nigerian millstone of corruption, inefficiency, and inferiority. The Igbo think that control of their public policies on education, research and innovation, economic and monetary policies, and recruitment, control and deployment of its own work force both in public and private sectors will give

them the leverage they need to build a coherent and civilized society

They point to the example of Biafra, where under three years, they were making their own rockets and calculating its distances; distilling their own oil and making aviation fuel, creating in their Chemical and Biological laboratories, new cures for diseases like Cholera, shaping their own spare parts, and turning the entire East into a vast workshop, as Ojukwu put it, while Nigeria was busy doing owambe, importing even toothpick, and creating new wartime millionaires from corrupt contracting systems by a powerful oligopoly. It is a fallacy much driven by ignorance that Igbo will not thrive and that Igbo land will not accommodate Igbo population if they leave. That is not true. There is no scientific basis for it.

The dynamics of human movement will take great care of all that. It's a lame excuse. What people who wish for Nigeria to stay together should do is not to make such puerile statements, because it is meaningless. What we should all do is to find the strategic means of containing Igbo discontent by LISTENING to the Igbo, and seeking peaceful and productive ways of fully freeing their energy

to instigate growth both of themselves and of Nigeria within Nigeria for everyone's benefit. Threatening them will not work. It has never worked, and it is important to

understand a bit of Igbo cultural psychology: the more you threaten him, the more the Igbo person digs in very stubbornly. Igbo, with a long tradition of diplomacy, thrive on consensus not on threat of the use of force, or the like.

Frankly, those who continue to think that the Igbo have no options are yet to understand the complexity of this movement as we speak. They still look at the surface of events while the train is revving and about to leave the station. We need to work very carefully on this issue. I myself, I prefer Nigeria. I like its color of many peoples and

cultures. That in itself is the very condition for growth and regeneration. A single Igbo nation may be more prosperous, but will be less interesting, and that is the more valid argument"



Boko Haram fighters



Alhaji Sani Yerima of Zamfara state



Gov. Soludo, Gov. Peter Mba, Chief Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu and Dr. Chris Ngige



Igbo Traditional rulers



Gov. Soludo, Gov. Peter Mba, Chief Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu, Dr. Chris Ngige and Mrs. Bianca Ojukwu



The famous Igbo war dancers

MBADINUJU: DESTINY FULFILLED

THE STATE BURIAL OF HE. DR. CHINWOKE CLEMENT MBADINUJU (ODERA)



Odera's first son, Barr. Chet Mbadinuju riding with the casket into Government house, Awka.



Odera's casket makinh it's way into Government House, Awka.



Mr. Peter Obi, Dr. Chris Ngige, Prof Charles Soludo enjoying banter at the funeral

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

Dr. Chinwoke Clement Mbadinufa (Odera), the former Governor of Anambra State was interred in Uli Ihiala Local Government Area, Anambra State after a week-long burial activity that stretched from Abuja, North Carolina, Awka and finally at Uli.

The burial itself was sponsored by the Anambra State Government in conjunction with Chinwoke Mbadinuju Foundation (CMF). The Sponsorship of a state burial was in itself both a matter of right as well as a show of appreciation for the former Governors' forthrightness and patriotism in laying the right foundation for the development of State between 1999-2003.

The burial events were held at various centers starting with the family's thanksgiving at St Matthew Anglican Church Maitma. The Evening of Tributes and Songs was held at the Shehu

Musa Yaradua Centre, Central Business District Abuja on 8th November 2023. The the lying-in State at the Government House Awka was on the 22nd of November 2023 while the State Commendation Ceremony held at the International Conference Centre, Awka. The Interment was at his country home Uli on 25th

November 2023. Throughout the burial ceremonies, Odera's good works and impressionable personality was on everybody's lips. His excellent works at the Government House and his personal attributes of sacrifice, humility, Christian chastity, sense of humour and scholarship were

recalled with nostalgia by several eminent personalities and family members.

The roll call of personalities that graced the various occasions was something akin to a who is who in the Nigerian politics, business, socio-cultural, religious landscape.

It included the Governor of Anambra State, Prof Charles Soludo, The former Governors of Anambra State Dr Chris Ngige and Mr. Peter Obi. The former Governor of Imo State Chief Achike Udenwa. The former Governor of Ebonyi State and senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Sen. Sam Egwu. Others were The Deputy Governor of Ebony State Mrs. Patricia Obila, Fmr. Governor of Anambra State; Dame Virginia Etiaba, Sen Ifeanyi Uba, Sen Uche Ekwunife, Mrs. Bianca Ojukwu, Dr ABC Orjiako, The SSG Anambra State etc.

The National Ambassador team were there to give you glimpses of the scenes at the various events.

Odera's good works and impressionable personality was on everybody's lips. His good works at the Government House and his personal attributes of sacrifice, humility, Christian chastity, sense of humour and scholarship were recalled with nostalgia by several eminent personalities and family members



MBADINUJU: DESTINY FULFILLED

FAMILY THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT ST. MATTHEW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH MAITMA ABUJA



St. Matthew's Anglican church Maitma



The Rev. Minister delivering his sermon



Odera's family: Nnanna, Zainab, Chet and wife.



A prayer for the family



Chet flanked by wife and mum



Chet, wife and children



A prayer for the family



Family members



Sister of the deceased



Odera's wife in a chat with a relative



MBADINUJU: DESTINY FULFILLED

FAMILY THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT ST. MATTHEW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH MAITMA ABUJA



Chet in a banter with the Rev. minister



The Mbadinuju family



Nnanna, Chet and their mum



Barr. Chet and Mrs. Zainab Mbadinuju



The congregation



Mrs. Mbadinuju and a friend



Mrs. Mbadinuju hugging a friend



Barr. Chet and Prince Arthur



The Mbadinuju Grand Children

MBADINUJU: DESTINY FULFILLED

EVENING OF TRIBUTE AND SONGS AT SHEHU MUSA YAR'ADUA CENTRE CBD, ABUJA



MBADINUJU: DESTINY FULFILLED

EVENING OF TRIBUTE AND SONGS AT SHEHU MUSA YAR'ADUA CENTRE CBD, ABUJA



MBADINUJU: DESTINY FULFILLED

LYING IN STATE AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE AWKA



MBADINUJU: DESTINY FULFILLED

LYING IN STATE AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE AWKA



MBADINUJU: DESTINY FULFILLED

STATE COMMENDATION CEREMONY AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE AWKA



MBADINUJU: DESTINY FULFILLED

STATE COMMENDATION CEREMONY AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE AWKA



MBADINUJU: DESTINY FULFILLED

INTERMENT AT COUNTRY HOME, ULI



MBADINUJU: DESTINY FULFILLED

INTERMENT AT COUNTRY HOME, ULI



MBADINUJU: DESTINY FULFILLED

INTERMENT AT COUNTRY HOME, ULI



SECTORAL PEEP INTO HE. DR. OTTI'S ADMINISTRATION

Gov. Otti's 2024 "Budget of new beginning" to drive Abia's development



By Kingsley Ugorji

The 2024 budget proposals presented by Gov. Alex Otti to the State House of Assembly could best be described as the hope of a new dawn as it is expected to ensure massive development that will stimulate socio-economic activities of the state.

Most economic and development analysts believe that the budget, if fully implemented will see Abia become a huge construction site due to numerous socio-economic activities it will stimulate.

Gov. Otti while announcing the budget, said that the proposal has a total outlay of N567.2b which is an increase of 353% over the 2022 figure of N160.5b. Also, the sum of N476b was allocated to capital expenditure, about 84% of the total budget while recurrent expenditure got N91.1b % or 16% of the total budget proposal christened "Budget of New Beginning".

Gov. Otti further stated that the budget would be financed with N385.3b external borrowing while the balance will be financed from funds that will be sourced domestically from internal generated revenue, federation account and grants from donor agencies.

A further look at the budget proposal shows that education got the highest sector allocation of 20% of the budget while works, health, land and housing, agriculture and finance got 16.9%, 15%, 9.9%, 5.12% and 5.125% respectively, amongst others. Governor Otti during his budget presentation at the House of Assembly said that the borrowing will be strictly applied for capital projects, particularly in roads, schools and medical facilities with focus on generating returns to meet obligations and eventual repayments. He also said that there would

be no borrowing to finance recurrent expenditures.

It is heartwarming to note that the budget will reinvigorate the state economy due to its direct impact on the economic and social development of the communities in all parts of the state. This is because the budget addresses such basic needs that align with the wellbeing of the communities.

There was no doubt that going by the budget outlay, it was apparent that the governor has keenly studied the conditions and yearnings of the citizens throughout different ministries, departments and agencies to see how the budget can positively and maximally impact the citizens.

Gov. Otti has all along believed that budgets logically determines the size and quality of a project that a state or nation plans to implement in any given financial year vis-a-vis visualizes its revenue

projection.

A big budget will therefore have extensive impact on infrastructure, economy, environment, health, education, agriculture, human capital development, security and other sundry key development indications.

The huge 2024 budget capital outlay would mean that Abia will witness massive capital project implementation never experienced in its 32 years of existence.

In their comments on the budget, financial and development experts, Dr. Anthony Nwaubani, Dr. Anokwuru C. U, Njoku Saint and former Minister of Health, Dr. Ihechukwu Madubuike all commended the ambitious nature of Abia budget and said that it would indeed drive and stimulate Abia economy to work more progressively. Dr. Madubuike commended the allocation of 20% to education which he described as "novel and historic as it reminds us of the supreme

importance our past visionary leaders attached to education and the glory and honour it brought to the people". The experts believed that by the nature and mix of the budget, it was potentially bound to have positive multiple effect on the economy.

Baring his mind on possible poor or under performance of the budget implementation, the Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Mike Akpara dismissed such fears assuring that the budget would be implemented under a great deal of supervision in other to maintain standard implementation that is conversant with fund providers.

The present government, he said would continue doing things the right way in other to put the state in the good books of fund providers and donor agencies.

What therefore is required for this ambitious 2024 budget proposal to be realized is the citizenry support in all ramifications in other to make it a success.

On his own part during the presentation, the Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Chief Emmanuel Emeruwa had assured that the lawmakers would ensure early passage of the budget and cooperate with the executive to ensure a strict implementation of its provisions.

The Speaker walked his talk when the Budget was passed by the House of Assembly on the 20th day of December 2023 thereby given stakeholders hope of an early implementation of the budget that has been tagged "Budget of New Beginning".

The onus therefore lies on the policy makers and implementors to ensure that the past budget's poor or underperformance are reversed and a robust budget with positive impact on the state-economy and the people be successfully implemented.

A further look at the budget proposal shows that education got the highest sector allocation of 20% of the budget while works, health, land and housing, agriculture and finance got 16.9%, 15%, 9.9%, 5.12% and 5.125% respectively, amongst others.

SECTORAL PEEP INTO HE. DR. OTTI'S ADMINISTRATION

GOV. OTTI'S 2024 "BUDGET OF NEW BEGINNING" TO DRIVE ABIA'S DEVELOPMENT

Pictorials of Gov. Otti's Budget Presentation



SECTORAL PEEP INTO HE. DR. OTTI'S ADMINISTRATION

ABIA STATE DUE PROCESS: THE UNTOLD STORY OF GREAT STRIDES.



OLUEBUBE A. CHUKWU, Ph.D., MNIPR
Senior Special Assistant To The Governor on Due Process

Prior to the inauguration of Dr. Alex Otti as the Governor of Abia State on May 29th 2023, the office in Abia was only mentioned in passing. Most public procurement procedures were arbitrarily conducted with majority of it being centralized at the table of the Governor. The same situation was also true with the payment systems. Such arbitrariness encouraged a great deal of corruption within the State Public Sector with the general public holding the short end of the stick. This system was in vogue despite the fact that the Due Process Office was established about eleven years ago after passing through all the crucibles of law making in the Abia State House of Assembly. Actually the bill establishing the

office was passed into Law and signed by the then incumbent Governor as the Abia State Public Procurement Law 2012.

The Due Process Office was created in the state in other to achieve Due Process in Public procurement which is fundamentally aimed at creating a framework that embodies transparency, openness and economic prudence that is devoid of nepotism and corruption in the state.

The Due Process Office was created in the state in other to achieve Due Process in Public procurement which is fundamentally aimed at creating a framework that embodies transparency, openness and economic prudence that is devoid of nepotism and corruption in the

state. The commitment to due process is anticipated to result in a system that is not only more transparent, but also more efficient and highly productive in all the ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government in the state. It is expected that by adhering to Due Process in procurement, the government will minimize opportunities for wastages and leakages in the economy through the effective management of its resources. The implication of this development is that public funds will be allotted and utilized in a manner that maximizes value and reduce the likelihood of mismanagement. It is also expected that the overall efficiency of the public sector procurement will improve through the operation of the Due Process office thereby ensuring that government resourced are Judiciously utilized in the best interest of the public.

Again the emphasis on Due Process is projected to have positive impact on government revenue by curbing wastes and leakages. The government can optimize its financial resources thereby leading to an increase in its revenue base. The revenue growth as a result of such savings could then be redirected towards

infrastructural development and other essential areas ultimately benefiting the citizens of the State. In a nutshell, Due Process in public procurement serves as a mechanism for fostering economic responsibility and contributing to the overall ...

Continued on the next page



Jombo O. Onyaturuchi
(HOD) Administration - Due Process



Chiukpai A.O Okwara
Deputy Director Procurement

SECTORAL PEEP INTO HE. DR. OTTI'S ADMINISTRATION

**ABIA STATE DUE PROCESS:
THE UNTOLD STORY OF GREAT STRIDES.**



development and well beings of the state and its citizenry.

Some of the objectives of Due Process includes achieving openness, competitiveness, efficiency and professionalism within the state system and to align current government policies and procedures related to public procurement, to guarantee integrity, responsibility and openness throughout the procurement procedures as well as set pricing norms and reference points.

Due process mechanism also promotes the use of equitable, competitive transparent and cost effective standards and methods in the acquisition and divestment of public assets.

In spite of this noble motive that informed the establishment of the Due Process Office, nothing much was known about the office as much of the rules in its provisions were observed in breach until the inauguration of Dr. Alex Otti into office in May 29th.

Prior to his coming into office, Dr. Alex Otti had during the campaign period promised that his Labour Party Government will instill public transparency, accountability and due process in public procurement through the revitalization and strengthen of the Due Process Office, if elected.

Since assumption of office, His Excellency, Dr. Alex Otti has walked his talk through ensuring that the Due Process Office is re-organized and strengthened in other to ensure that Public Procurement in the State is done procedurally within the laid down rules and with a great deal of transparency and openness.

Gov.Otti has achieved this feat through the

appointment of an experienced, vibrant brilliant and trusted professional in the person of Dr. Oluebube Amarauche Chukwu who is also very versatile with government procedures to drive the process.

Since his assumption of office in June 2023 Dr Oluebube Chukwu has done all within his reach to ensure that the Governor's ambitions about the Due Process Office is realized.

Some of the achievements of Dr Chukwu as the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Due Process within these few months interval includes the following:

- Ensuring that all government contract awards follows the Due Process thus giving room to call for tenders and competitive bidding.

- Also, indicated documents for the Governor's decisions are reviewed accordingly.

- The Due Process office has ensured quality and cost savings

in government contracts through competitive bidding process.

- The Due Process office has guaranteed revenue generation through administrative fees.

- The office has developed an assessment tool for assessing Procurement Procedures.

- It has also created a legend for Contractors' registration in Abia state, as well as generated Contractor Classification with corresponding rates.

- The Due Process Office has expanded from two rooms office block to occupying a full duplex, with the building completely renovated together with the computerization of the entire office, while the Bureau Offices have been furnished with ultra modern office

equipment and furniture.

- In other to add greater impetus and strengthen its activities, the Due Process Office, through the Legal Department, commenced the process of amending the law to change its name from the Bureau of Public Procurement to Due Process and Public Procurement Bureau.

- The Due Process Office, has established collaboration with the national office of the Bureau for Public Procurement, and the results are massive.

- In a bid to let the public be acquainted with its programs and the achievements of the present administration, the Office have ensured regular media appearances in both the print and electronic media, and that has helped raising awareness about issues of Due Process and Public Procurement in the public domain.

- The Bureau has further developed a Monitoring and Evaluation Tracking Tool for its Monitoring and Evaluation unit

- The Office has also initiated an online service integration with the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the benefits can not be overemphasized.

- In order to prepare the staff of Due Process for maximum productivity which is part of its goals, the Head of the Bureau had engaged in Human Capacity Training for key staff as well assembled the right team in various departments for Procurement in Abia state.

Worthy of note is the spirited efforts of the Management of Due Process Office to developed eight Departments and some Units within the Bureau, and there is no gainsaying the fact that all that have been achieved so far are due to the spirited efforts of the Staff of the Departments, and they are still pushing ahead by interfacing with other government agencies to ensure that the manifesto of Governor Alex Otti is roundly actualized.

The Due Process office has ensured quality and cost savings in government contracts through competitive bidding process.



SECTORAL PEEP INTO HE. DR. OTTI'S ADMINISTRATION

THE PROFILE OF DR OLUEBUBE AMARAUCHE CHUKWU- SENIOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE GOVERNOR ON DUE PROCESS



The Abia Due Process Office is headed by Dr Oluebube Amarauche Chukwu who was appointed as the Senior Special Assistant on Due Process and Procurement in June 2023 by the Executive Governor of Abia state, Dr Alex Otti within one month of his inauguration in office.

His appointment indicates the great importance the Governor attaches to issues of openness, transparency, and procedural standard in government as well as his preference for brilliant and well qualified professionals that will help drive his modernization agenda for the state.

His appointment indicates the great importance the Governor attaches to issues of openness, transparency, and procedural standard in government as well as his preference for brilliant and well qualified professionals that will help drive his

modernization agenda for the state.

A quick glance at Dr Oluebube Chukwu's academic and professional background will attest to this assertion.

Dr Chukwu hails from Isuochi, Umunneochi Local Government Area of the State. He is the second of the five children born to Prof Amarauche Chukwu, a renowned Pharmacist and Scholar, and Mrs. Chinomso Amarauche Chukwu.

Dr Chukwu was nurtured at the serene University town of Nsukka where he achieved most of his educational career. He attended the University of Nigeria Secondary School and Nigeria's first indigenous University, all in Nsukka for his academic pursuits. He acquired his Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communication in 2011 and the Masters of Arts in 2015. His Doctor of Philosophy with Specialization in Public Relations and Advertising was achieved in 2018.

He is also a licensed Project Manager and business consultant.

Following his graduation in 2012, Oluebube fulfilled his National Youth Service programme commitment by

teaching at St Luke's Grammar School, Ibadan, Oyo State. While pursuing his Post graduate degree programme, he worked as a consultant for ByteWorks Technology Solution in Enugu in Enugu state and Songhai Nigeria Partnership Initiative (GTE) in Abia state.

After obtaining his Doctorate, Oluebube returned to UNN and served as a senior lecturer in the Department of Mass Communication from 2019 to 2022.

He was appointed the Senior Special Assistant to Abia state Governor, Dr Alex Otti in June 2023. Aside heading the Due Process Office, Dr Oluebube is involved several top Policy Initiatives of the State Government. Such notable initiatives include facilitating the subsidized CAC business registration and overseeing waste management bids. He also made robust contribution to such policy initiatives such as Umuahia Catholic Church Investment Project, Bid Review committee, Pension Reform and Civil Service Reform committees.

Dr. Oluebube holds membership of several esteemed Organisations that includes the International Association of World Peace Advocates (IAWPA) 2019, Nigeria Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) 2019, Police Community Public Relations Committee (PCPRC) 2018, African Council fo Communication Education (ACCE) 2012, Project Management Professional, 2014, Nigeria Institute of Management (NIM) 2012, Institute of Business Advisers, 2012, Project Management Professional Institute, 2012 and many more.

All these and many more showcases Dr. Oluebube Chukwu's commitment to Professional Development and Engagement.

Dr Chukwu's robust profile no doubt symbolizes Dr Alex Otti's preference for very brilliant and experienced professionals assisting him to build a New Abia State.



Dr. Chukwu in a management meeting with senior staff

SECTORAL PEEP INTO HE. DR. OTTI'S ADMINISTRATION

ABSCOHMAT GRADUATES CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL HUMANITARIANS



On 15th November, the premises of the Abia State College of Health Sciences and Management was agog as the College in conjunction with the Institute for Humanitarian Studies and Social Development (IHSD) and in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) held her Maiden graduation ceremony for trained staff and students of the college as Certified Professional Humanitarians.

In his welcome address during the ceremony, the Rector of the college, Mr. Okezie Alloy E. said the introduction of a Humanitarian Course in conjunction with the Institute for Humanitarian Affairs

and in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research was one of the innovations encouraged by his administration to boost the quality of graduants, the college was turning out. He also used the occasion to reel out the numerous other achievements the school has recorded since his inauguration as the rector of the school

In his own speech, the Registrar of the Institute of Humanitarian Affairs & Social Development, Dr. Francis Origa said that the Institute is a dual purpose and multidimensional professional institute that provides both humanitarian education and other humanitarian interventions including, coaching, mentorship as well as community development. Dr.

Origa enumerated the objectives behind the establishment of the institute, some of which includes the following;

- Bring benefits across the humanitarian community to those who find it and for those who seek its services.
- Improve the credibility, competence and effectiveness of humanitarian works and for donors; it will increase the assurance that their fund will be spent competently.
- And to provide intellectualism and professionalism in the humanitarian/development sector.

The Chairman of the occasion, Chief Jones Nnanna Ike had in his speech extolled the innovative

approach of the Rector in the management of the College. He said such approach was in tandem with the innovative approach of the Governor of Abia State in his quest to build a new Abia.

Chief Jones Ike who is the Editor-in-Chief of the National Ambassador equally stated that the graduation ceremony of trained Staff and Students of the College as Certified Professional Humanitarians will help to improve the quality of the human society.

There were numerous other speeches from well-meaning people who attended the event. The highlight of the ceremony was the conferment of different category of awards to the grandaunts.



SECTORAL PEEP INTO HE. DR. OTTI'S ADMINISTRATION

ABSCOHMAT GRADUATES CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL HUMANITARIANS



SECTORAL PEEP INTO HE. DR. OTTI'S ADMINISTRATION

ARTSMA: IN A QUEST TO HUMANIZE ROAD TRAFFIC AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT

Prior to the advent of the Dr. Alex Otti Administration on May 29th 2023 and the appointment of an Ex-military officer, Security Expert and Scholar Col Ezichi Kalu (rtd) to head the Abia Road Traffic and Safety Management Agency (ARTSMA), the Agency existed only in law. Its operation was characterized by a great deal of arbitrariness as well as lawlessness. The staff were highly unmotivated. They were owed arrears of salaries and other incentives. They also lacked the necessary equipment that will enable them operate efficiently.

In this, circumstance, most of the field workers could not be differentiated from the ordinary thugs in the streets because of the high-handed manner and ill manners, they approached their work with. This situation also brought public disrespect for the Agency and an accompanying lack of cooperation from the public.

All these situations have changed for good since the appointment of Col. Ezichi Kalu (rtd) as the General Manager of the Abia Road Traffic and Safety Management Agency. In keeping with the visionary and purposeful leadership qualities of the Dr. Alex Otti Administration, the



from left: Col. Ezichi Kalu (rtd), Comrade Onwume (the Commissioner for transport), the SSG, Prof. Kenneth Kalu and Chief C.K Igara (the State Chairman of the labour) at the relaunch of ARTSMA.

Abia Road Traffic and Management Agency (ARTSMA) has been repurposed for effectiveness with a vibrant management team, an effectual command and control structure, new equipment, cutting edge technologies and new processes.

The above has imbued the Agency with the confidence and the capacity it needs to deliver on its mandate.

As at today in the new ARTSMA, the following are being prioritized for field efficiency and good governance outcomes:

1. A highly disciplined and motivated workforce with purposeful direction created through training and reorientation
2. Traffic management driven by global best practices and new technologies
3. A technology driven Traffic Control monitoring and control Centre
4. The installation of IP Traffic cameras at strategic points on the roads that will also serve public safety and security.
5. Continuous stakeholders' engagement and public enlightenment campaigns
6. A Call-Centre for feedback and emergency response management
7. Proper road signs, directional and markings to enable navigation in our urban areas and to reduce or eliminate road mishaps
8. Designated drop-off and pick-up points
9. Ensuring the remittance of fines and fees to the state government

Currently, ARTSMA has a good working relationship with the Commissioner for Transport and his Ministry. The Agency is also building relationships with other MDAs and Federal/Law enforcement Agencies for seamless field operation and good inter-agency relationships.

ABIA ROAD TRAFFIC & SAFETY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

ARTSMA EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS
09122012233, 09122012277

Public Service Announcement

In keeping with Governor Alex Otti's vision for Abia State, the management of the ABIA TRAFFIC & SAFETY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (ARTSMA) is hereby notifying all road users in Abia that going forward, all road users must as a matter of compliance to all traffic rules and regulations of the state abide by:

1. The road markings on roads which are currently being done on roads in the state
2. Obey road signs
3. Obey ARTSMA personnel deployed to manage and control traffic.
4. Ensure that your vehicle has all of its lights working, a fire extinguisher & a good & working caution sign

Please note that violators are liable to fines and penalties. Do your part in making our roads safe for all.

Signed
GM ARTSMA

artsma@abiategov.ng • 9 Factory Road Umuahia Abia State



Newly purchased motorcycles for ARTSMA.



A well-motivated staff of ARTSMA.

SECTORAL PEEP INTO HE. DR. OTTI'S ADMINISTRATION

THE PROFILE OF COL EZICHI KALU (RTD) GENERAL MANAGER OF THE ABIA ROAD TRAFFIC AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



Col. Ezichi Kalu(rtd) the General Manager Abia Road Transport and Safety Management Agency.

Col Ezichi Kalu (rtd) is the General Manager of the Abia Road Safety and Traffic Management Agency. He is a Security and Risk Specialist and hails from Akanu Ohafia, in Ohafia local Government Area of Abia State.

He was trained at the prestigious Nigerian Defence Academy and Joint

Armed Forces Command and Staff College Kaduna. The retired army officer was educated at the University of Calabar and Cranfield University, UK. He holds degrees in Public Administration and National Security, respectively from both universities.

In the course of his career, he served in various capacities and assignments.



He was head of Ops, United Nations Verification Mission in Angola and Lebanon, as a UN peace keeper. He was also a senior instructor, Amphibious warfare school; SO 2, Department of Army Admin, Army Headquarters; SO 3, Training, 1 Division of Nigeria Army. Battalion Commander, 81 Division RO, Cantonment Commander etc

He voluntarily retired from the service and set up a Security Consultancy Firm, that serviced multi-nationals and banks later joined Black Water, one of the biggest security firms in the world, as Executive Director, Operations. He

was also a one-time Security Advisor to the Executive Governor of Abia State

Col Ezichi Kalu is an accomplished professional.

He is widely travelled and has Canada, Holland, USA, France, Belgium, UK, Lebanon, Mauritania and many African countries.

He is certainly one of the accomplished professionals whom Dr Alex Otti has recruited to help build a new Abia State. He is presently working very hard to humanize the operations of the ARTSMA in other to engender the needed public cooperation that will make road traffic and safety management easier to achieve.



Col. Kalu (Rtd) with the SSG, Prof. Kenneth Kalu



The Special Adviser to the Governor on Security, Navy commander Macdonald (rtd), Col. Ezichi Kalu (rtd) and Prof. Ken Kalu at the relaunch of ARTSMA.



Prof. Ken Kalu and Col. Ezichi Kalu inspecting a guard of honour mounted by the staff.

SECTORAL PEEP INTO OTTI'S ADMINISTRATION

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS ENLIVENS UMUAHIA WITH CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

By: Ngozi Ndubueze



It was an evening of songs, joy and Christian conviviality when the Staff of the office of the Secretary to Abia State Government, top Government officials and other invited guests gathered at the Michael Okpara Auditorium, Umuahia to observe the maiden edition of the "Festival of Nine Lessons" with Carols as part of the activities to mark this year's Christmas Celebration. In his opening remarks during the event, the Secretary to the State Government, Professor Kenneth Kalu, appreciated God for the gift of Jesus Christ who came for the redemption of mankind, adding that Christmas is a period of hope for Christians as it affords them the opportunity to reflect on the reasons for the season. Prof Kalu who described this year's Christmas as significant to all Abians, as it is the first since the inception of the present Government which came with new ideas and mindset to give Abians dividends of democracy as well as build a new Abia for the good of all. He advised that as people celebrate the Yuletide, they should not be carried away with the joy that surrounds the season but be focused on God even as he wished all a wonderful Christmas celebration. The Nine lessons which was intermixed by interludes of sweet Christian melodies rendered by Christian orchestra's was kickstarted by the SSG, Prof Kenneth Kalu's first lesson taken from Gen.3:1-12. The Chief of Staff to the Governor, Pastor Caleb Ajaegbu read taken from ISAIAH 7:10-14. The third Lesson from ISAIAH 1:26-35 was read by the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Barr. Ikechukwu Uwana while the Head of Service Ngozi Queen

Obioma read the fourth lesson taken from Luke 1:26-35. The fifth lesson was read by the Permanent Secretary, SSG'S office, Barr Mrs Ogechukwu .I. Maduka and it was taken from MATHEW 1-18-25. The sixth lesson was taken from LLUKE 2:1-7 by Dr Sunny Jackson. The seventh lesson was taken from LUKE 2:8-20 and it was read by Ejim Francis. The eight lesson was read by Pastor Justice Kanu

The Festival Of Nine Lessons was indeed a good novelty in the state as all who attended it agreed it was a good way to start the Christmas in which the citizens of the state are for the first time in recent years looking towards to the future with renewed hope and confidence.

from MATHEW 2:1-11 while Lesson Nine was read by Nkechi Nnaemeka Isaac from JOHN1:1-4. In his brief exhortation, the guest speaker, Rev Johnson Kalu of the Presbyterian Church, noted that the fall of man in the garden of Eden brought about God's plan to restore the glory

and the privilege given to man which according to him was the essence of Christmas. Rev Kalu explained that the birth of Jesus Christ was a show of God's love to mankind. He called on all to reciprocate God's love by accepting Jesus as their saviour and also care and love others. The man of God, thanked God for the emergence of Dr Alex Otti as the Governor of Abia, which he said is a blessing and prayer answered for all Abians. On her own part, the coordinator SSG's Office Fellowship Group, Mrs Nkechi Nnaemeka Isaac appreciated God for his love, protection and care of all the staff of the office especially the fellowship group and encouraged the members to continue to put their trust in God. The Festival Of Nine Lessons was indeed a good novelty in the state as all who attended it agreed it was a good way to start the Christmas in which the citizens of the state are for the first time in recent years looking towards to the future with renewed hope and confidence. In his vote of thanks, the chairman, planning Committee, Mr Onyebuchi Ajomiwe thanked the SSG, Prof Kenneth Kalu for his support and efforts in ensuring that this year's festival of nine lessons with carols was a reality and appreciated the management, staff of SSG as well as all who graced the occasion. The event featured special rendition of the carol by the choirs, reading of nine lessons, appreciation of retired staff of fellowship group attracted the presence of top government functionaries.



SECTORAL PEEP INTO OTTI'S ADMINISTRATION



“CHRISTMAS, A SEASON OF JOY, PEACE AND LOVE”

... Prof Kenneth Kalu



91:7). And so, the message of hope teaches us that although current indices may be both disappointing and depressing, one should look forward to a better tomorrow.

For us in Abia State, this Christmas should be a particularly great Christmas. A time of new beginning. A new government, a new mindset, a new set of processes, a new outcome and a new narrative. This is the time to celebrate Abia's redemption, and a time to look forward to tomorrow with amazing confidence. Again, we must appropriate Isaiah 60:1: "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you." The Light of our dear State has come, to God's glory.

Dear friends, as we celebrate during this season, may we remember the true essence of Christmas, and may the joy of Christmas help us to embrace hope over fear, and friendliness over animosity. May we earnestly embrace that brand of hope that can help rewrite history for good, uplift the weakest amongst us, create a conducive space for the strong to thrive, and help extricate many from the gnawing claws of poverty and misery. May we renew our commitments to ourselves and to one another irrespective of our differences.

On behalf of the entire staff and management of the Office Secretary to the State Government, I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a very fulfilling New Year. Let us sit back, relax and enjoy this beautiful evening. Merry Christmas!

Speech Delivered By: The SSG Abia State; Prof. Kenneth Kalu on the occasion of festival of nine lessons held at Michael Okpara Auditorium Umuahia December 15, 2023



I welcome you all to this year's Carol of Nine Lessons, thoughtfully put together by the Fellowship Group, Office of the Secretary to the State Government.

As we all know, Christmas is a season of joy, peace and love. May you and yours find joy, peace and fulfilment during this season and beyond.

For some people, Christmas is a time to celebrate and to visit friends. For others, it may be a time to take stock and to plan for the following year; and yet for some others, it may be a time to simply take a break and rest. Whatever it is to you, we wish you a very joyful Christmas.

If you belong to the group of those who pause to take stock during Christmas, you may become anxious due to several unpleasant global and national events: tales of woes and misery are never in short supply. For example, inflation and unemployment are biting hard in many climes, and many more

people have sadly fallen below the poverty line. In addition, drums of war and ongoing geo-political crises in Africa and elsewhere continue to produce fear and consternation in

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many. However, on this Christmas, we preach hope. After all, the Holy Book reminds us that although "A thousand may fall at your left side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you" (Psalm



CHRISTMAS, A SEASON OF JOY, PEACE AND LOVE



SECTORAL PEEP INTO HE. DR. OTTI'S ADMINISTRATION

ALEX OTTI'S SPORTING ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023

By Joseph Jacob



Governor Alex Otti hit the ground running in sports development in Abia State from day one after his inauguration as the Governor of Abia State on May 29, 2023. In this Special Report, Sporting Ambassador's Reporter, Joseph Jacob examines Governor Otti's accomplishments in sports in the outgoing year.

June 11, 2023

The People's Elephant, Enyimba International of Aba won the Nigerian Professional Football League, their record ninth title after winning the NPFL Super Six in Lagos.

Enyimba won two of their matches drew three and lost none. They scored eight goals and conceded four. They garnered nine points to emerge champions.

July 7, 2023

Dr. Alex Otti appoints Mr. Nwaobilor Ananaba the Honourable Commissioner for Sports and Youth Development with the mandate to navigate the Abia State to enviable heights in sports development.

July 11, 2023

Kanu Nwankwo and John Sam Obuh were appointed Chairmen of Enyimba International and Abia Warriors respectively.

Kanu Nwankwo it will be recalled won the U-17 World Cup in Japan in 1993 and captained the Dream Team 1 to win Africa's first gold medal in the soccer event in Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996.

John Obuh was the Golden Eagles coach that came second in the 2009 U-17 World Cup hosted by Nigeria.

August 22, 2023.

Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, hosted Abia State born players who were part of the Super Falcons' squad in the last Female World Cup in Australia.

Abia had four players in the Super Falcons Team that made it to Australia, the highest produced by any State in the country. They are Ogbonna Glory Akumbu, who plays her club football with Besiktas of Turkey; Ucheibe Christy Onyenaturuchi, who plies her football trade with Club SL Benfica of Portugal; Uchenna Kanu who plays her club football with NWSL Club Racing Louisville USA; and Esther Okoronkwo who plays her Club Football in Spain with UD Granadilla Tenerife.

Recall that the Super Falcons were eliminated in the round of 16 by England on penalties after full and extra time had ended goalless.

September 5, 2023.

Governor Otti played host to a group of female Para-Power Lifters, who are headed to the Olympics next year. They were part of the athletes that qualified from the Dubai Championship.

Governor Otti, who was joined by his wife, Priscilla, to welcome the athletes at his home in Nvosi, Isiala Ngwa South LGA, extolled the resilience and strong will of the young ladies to excel, notwithstanding their physical challenges.

November 30, 2023.

Dr. Alex Otti received a delegation of Sports Nigeria, a private sector driven initiative, aimed at bringing government and the private sector together to harness talents and develop sports infrastructure in Nigeria.

The governor stated during the visit that his administration is deliberate about using sports to unite the people as well as grow the economy of the state.

SPORTS



2023 CAF AWARDS: OSIMHEN WINS AFRICAN PLAYER OF THE YEAR AS NIGERIA GRAB THREE OTHER AWARDS

By: Joseph Jacob



OSIMHEN

Super Eagles striker Victor Osimhen has been named the 2023 CAF Player of the Year following his outstanding performance for the Super Eagles of Nigeria and his club, Napoli of Italy. The Super Eagles hit-man claimed the prestigious award at Monday 11th December 2023 awards ceremony in Marrakech Morocco after his goals inspired Napoli's league title triumph last season and he emerged the top scorer of the 2023 AFCON qualifiers with 10 goals. Osimhen saw off challenges from Morocco full-back Achraf Hakimi, who plays for PSG of France and Egypt striker Mohammed Salah, who scored his 200th goal for Liverpool at the penultimate weekend, to land African football's biggest individual prize. Osimhen is now the first Nigerian winner of the men's award since Kanu Nwankwo won it in 1999.

The women's category was also won by Nigeria and Barcelona striker, Asisat Oshoala. The 29-year-old striker beat South African Thembi Kgatlana and Zambia's Barbara Banda to retain her crown.

Oshoala was Barcelona's top scorer last season, plundering 27 goals across all competitions as the Spanish giants clinched a domestic double.

She became the first female player to receive the award for highest goal scorer in the Spanish top flight after notching 20 league goals.

That astonishing campaign for high-flying Barcelona saw Oshoala reign supreme again on the continental stage 11 months on from her last triumph.

The veteran striker now moves clear of fellow Nigerian Perpetua Nkwocha with six total wins - more than any other African in history.

Super Falcons goalkeeper, Chiamaka Nnadozie clinched the CAF Women's Goalkeeper of the Year award.

The Paris FC captain beat fellow

nominees Khadija Er-Rmichi of Morocco and South Africa's Andile Dlamini to the groundbreaking prize.

Nnadozie underlined her credentials during this year's Women's World Cup, producing a player-of-the-match performance to thwart Canada in Nigeria's opener.

The 25-year-old has also been integral in Paris FC's success this season, keeping six clean sheets as they sealed a maiden Women's Champions League qualification.

Furthermore, the Super Falcons won the National Team of the Year (Women) award.

The Super Falcons were amongst the three African teams that historically reached the FIFA Women's World Cup Round of 16 at last year's global showpiece alongside Morocco and South Africa.

The newly crowned national team of the year was nominated along with Morocco and South Africa. The last time Nigeria won this award was in 2018.

Other winners are Al Ahly, who won Club of the Year; the Atlas Lions of Morocco won the Men's National Team of the Year. Men's Goalkeeper of the Year went to Yassine Bounou of Morocco, while Lamine Camara of Senegal won the Youth Player of the Year.

Percy Tau of South Africa won the Interclub Player of the Year as Kharaba of Egypt won the Goal of the Year. The Men's and Women's Coaches of the Year went to Walid Regragui of Morocco and Desiree Ellis of South Africa respectively.

Women's Youth Player of the Year went to Nesryne El Chad of Morocco while Women's Club of the Year went to Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies FC of South Africa.

Fatima Tagraout of Morocco won the Women's Interclub player of the Year.



CHIAMAKA NNADOZIE



OSHOALA

**ABIA NEWSPAPERS & PUBLISHING
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UMUAHIA ABIA STATE

*Merry
Christmas*

To all Christian faithful
Wishing you a joyous holiday
with peace & cheers in
the new year!



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