

Ariaria Set To Compete With International Markets

Pg. 4

Abia To Become Major Hub For Global Sports Talent -Gov. Alex Otti

Pg. 19

Abia State Gov. Advocates Sustainable Strategy To Boost IGR

Pg. 13

NATIONAL Ambassador

200 VOL. 22 NO. 096

"Uplift the people, project the nation"

Sunday 7 April, 2024

nationalambassador.ng www.facebook.com/nationalambassador www.instagram.com/nationalambassador www.linkedin.com/company/nationalambassador www.youtube.com/channel/UC... report@nationalambassador.ng www.nationalambassador.ng

Otti Launches Reconstruction of Obohia, Ohanku Roads.

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

As Abia State Government continues to prioritize infrastructure development, the Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, has announced the commencement of reconstruction work on the dilapidated Obohia road in Aba with the reconstruction of Ohanku road set to commence immediately. The road which is a critical artery in the commercial nerve center of the state, comes as welcome news to many in the area which over the years has deteriorated, causing inconvenience and frustration for commuters and hindering economic activities.

Its reconstruction is expected to alleviate traffic congestion, improve accessibility, and enhance the overall quality of life for residents.

Governor Otti who broke the cheering news during the 2024 Christ Mass at Christ The King Catholic Church (CKC) Aba, revealed plans to use the Cement Pavement Technology for the road construction to enable it last longer.

Work have already started at Obohia road. very soon work will start at Ohanku road and we are doing something a little different in Ohanku road because we are using Cement Pavement Technology so that it will last longer", he said.

The Governor while emphasizing the importance of good governance, expressed gratitude to the Church for its support to his administration and pledged that he would not take the church of God for granted knowing their significant roles in enthroning good governance in the state.

The governor use the opportunity to thank CKC for the support given to him.

Thanks for your support. Thank you for being who you have been and supporting the good governance that we have today" Gov. Otti stated.

In his address, the Catholic Bishop of Aba Diocese, the most Rev Augustine Echema said that Governor Otti has through his good works in the state and Aba in particular secured his second term in office and described the ongoing reconstruction of Port Harcourt road, Aba as a bench mark.

The Catholic Bishop of Aba Diocese, the Most Rev Augustine Echema, in his address, commended Governor Otti's achievements in all parts of the state, particularly, the commercial nerve center and highlighted the reconstruction of Port Harcourt road as a significant milestone.

He praised Governor Otti as a righteous leader, stating that Abians are proud of their governor for the first time.

"You are doing well so far, so good and I bet you, if you continue like this, you don't need any other campaign for a second tenure. Your works will speak for you. The things you do will campaign for you. I have nothing else to say than to assure you of our efficacious prayers.

"We Abians for once are proud of our governor. You have done greatly well and the people are happy. When the righteous people are in authority, the people rejoice. Thank you and God bless you", Bishop Echema said.

Mrs. Otti Commends Senator Oluremi Tinubu For Empowering Rural Women In Abia

By Chibunna Ikeokwu

Abia State Governor's Wife, Mrs. Priscilla Otti has commended the wife of the President, Senator Oluremi Tinubu for empowering over 700 rural women in Abia with improved farm inputs to go back to farming in order to produce food in the country.

Mrs. Otti made the commendation at the Institute of Agric Business and Entrepreneurship, Okpu Umuobo in

Osioma L.G.A of the state during the distribution of farm inputs by the beneficiaries to utilize the improved National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA).

Mrs. Otti, represented by the Labour Party woman leader in Isiala North, Mrs. Nkechi Chibueze said that the programme is a welcome development towards increasing agricultural produce and to flood markets in the country with items during the harvest season. She pointed out the need for the present administration to combat hunger and to stop food scarcity in the land. Responding on behalf of the beneficiaries, Mrs Catherine Wamah Development Authority, Prince Paul from Isiala ngwa South local government area thanked the federal government for the kind gesture and assured that they will utilize the improved farm inputs for bumper harvest in their farming.



Former President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo (Left) with Abia State Governor Dr. Alex Otti, during a courtesy visit to the Governor, in his home town Nvosi Isialangwa South, recently.

Abia Govt Set To Inaugurate Unified Taskforce To Combat Touting, Other Issues

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

Abia State Government, in its efforts to eradicate all forms of touting, has approved the formation of a Unified Taskforce to oversee all enforcement activities and government initiatives for both the State and Local Governments.

The Commissioner for Information and Culture, Prince Okey Kanu disclosed this at Government House Umuahia, while briefing Journalists on the outcome of last week Exco meeting presided over by Governor Alex Otti.

The Commissioner further disclosed that the State Government is set to hold a retreat for the members of the Taskforce ahead of their formal inauguration by the State government. Prince Kanu highlighted the

significance of the upcoming retreat, as a crucial step towards ensuring the task force's effectiveness to ensure professional operation and adherence to set guidelines.

Continue in Page 2

Editorial:

Arochukwu – Ndi Okereke – Ozu Abam Road Project Flag Off: Breaking A Historical Jinx

News



The wedding between Mr Okeh Kingsley Chijioko and Miss Owen Ruth Nyechiobi witnessed by the perants Pastor Emenike Okeh and Elder Owen

Change Of Name

I, formerly known and addressed as Nwanagba Ngozi Lynda, now wish to be known and addressed as ONYEKACHI NGOZI LYNDA. All documents bearing my former names remain valid. The general public should please take note.
ONYEKACHI NGOZI LYNDA.

I, formerly known and addressed as Better Aduago Sunday, now wish to be known and addressed as BETTER ADAUGO CHIMBOR. All documents bearing my former names remain valid. The general public please take note.
BETTER ADAUGO CHIMBOR.

Reconciliation Of Name

This is to affirm that Nnenna Uwaekwenyi U. which appeared in my payroll and Uwaekweine Chinyere Euphemia which appeared in my Bank Verification Number (BVN) with Union Bank are same person. I now wish to be known and addressed as UWAEKWENYI CHNYERE EUPHEMIA. All documents bearing my former names remain valid. The general public should please take note.
UWAEKWENYI CHNYERE EUPHEMIA.

Correction Of Name

This is to affirm that Iheasonwu Chimaobi Destiny which was wrongly written in my Bank Verification Number (BVN) and Ihiasonwu Chimaobi Destiny which was written in my National Identification Number (NIN) is said to be same person. I now wish to be known and addressed as IHIASONWU CHIMAOBI DESTINY. All documents bearing my former names remain valid. The general public should please take note.
IHIASONWU CHIMAOBI DESTINY.

This is to affirm that Onwunliri Hope Chinyeaka which was wrongly written on my Bank Verification Number (BVN) and my Bank Account with Zenith Bank Nigeria Plc and ONWUNLIRI HOPE JUSTIN is the same person. I now wish to be known and addressed as ONWUNLIRI HOPE CHINYEAKA. All documents bearing my former names remains valid. The general public should please take note.
ONWUNLIRI HOPE CHINYEAKA.

Abia Govt Set To Inaugurate Unified Taskforce To Combat Touting, Other Issues

Continued from page 1

He said that the Taskforce membership which would be drawn from various Ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDAs) and Local Government Areas within the metropolis, aims to put an end to the long-standing concerns regarding touting and unnecessary harassment of Abia citizens and residents. Prince Kanu expressed confidence that with the task force in place, such issues would be effectively curtailed, ensuring a safer and more conducive environment for all. "There will be a retreat later before the takeoff of the unified task force being sponsored by the state government. That is the one stop task force that will handle all issues

of enforcement and government initiatives across the state. "The Retreat would grant them the opportunity to dot every i and cross every t's prior to their formal outing. Once they are in place, every issue about touting and unnecessary harassment of Abia citizens and residents would cease", the Commissioner assured. The Commissioner announced a partnership between the state government and Hungarian scouts, currently in the State to scout for talents in the Governor's Unity Games among secondary schools. Prince Kanu said that the collaboration aims at establishing an International Sports College in Abia, to foster opportunities for

young talents in various sporting activities to excel globally. Contributing, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Media and Publicity, Mr. Ferdinand Ekeoma, emphasized that the Unified Taskforce, organized into six zones, with two in Umuahia and four in Aba, will have coordinators responsible for maintaining the Taskforce's mandate. He reiterated that the Taskforce's objective is to eliminate illegal activities such as harassment and extortion from citizens and residents of the state while providing a more accountable and remunerated structure. "The essence of what government is doing as far as this one is concerned

is to bring to an end anything that has to do with touting, illegal taskforce and all the rest of them". "We were used to having individuals harassing people, intimidating them, extorting money from them in the name of taskforce so we want to move away from that old order and that is why, this one is well organized. "The members (of the taskforce) will be known, they are all going to be remunerated. It is not the one where people will just do all kinds of things to make money and put in their pockets in the name of collecting revenue for government. They are going to operate in a most responsible manner", Mr. Ekeoma assured.

Police Kill Three Suspected Robbers In Gun Duel, Arrest One In Akwa Ibom

Lovina Emole, Uyo

Akwa Ibom State Police Command said it has neutralized three armed men robbing the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Hall/National Museum, Ikot Inyang Village, Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area of the State. It added that one of the suspected armed robbers was captured alive while others escaped with bullet wounds.

In a statement issued by the Command's Public Relations Officer, CSP Odiko Macdon on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, the gang was responsible for robberies around Ikot Ekpene and environs. The statement noted that the exploit was in compliance with the directives of the Commissioner of Police, CP Waheed Ayilara to clampdown on robbery, kidnapping and other security breaches in the

state. It noted that locally made pistol, one expanded and one live cartridges were recovered as well as vandalized wire cables among other items. According to the statement, "The CP has handed down a standing order to smoke out and bring to justice those who think they can attempt to truncate the peace and tranquility of the State through kidnapping,

armed robbery and other heinous crimes. "In compliance with the CP's directive, on 20/3/2024, Crack Team of Ikot Ekpene Division, responded to a distress call, engaged armed robbers, numbering about ten who were robbing at N.D.D.C Hall/National Museum, Ikot Inyang Village and environs. "In the ensuing gun duel, three of the

Suspects were neutralised while one was arrested and others escaped with bullet wounds. A locally made pistol, one expanded and one live cartridges were recovered. Also recovered were vandalized wire cables among other items." While warning criminals to steer clear the State, the CP reiterates commitments to ensure safety and security of residents of the State.

Adulterated Honey On The Prowl, Abia Royal Father Alerts NAFDAC, CPC

By Charles Ogbonnaya

A renowned technician and the traditional ruler of Uzi-Amizi autonomous community Olokoro clan in Umuahia South Local Government Area of Abia State, the traditional ruler of Uzi-Amizi autonomous community, Olokoro in Umuahia South LGA of Abia State and

renowned technician, HRH Eze Cyril Ogbenna has raised an alarm over the flooding of adulterated honey in the market. Speaking at his palace in Uzi-Amizi to mark world Consumer Rights Day. Abia Royal father alerted the public on adulterated honey. Eze Ogbenna, who

is an octogenarian, alleged that most marketers and distributors of honey deceptively fill the containers with fermented sugar and other "unwarranted ingredients" to form a honey-like substance and, "most deceptively fill the tops of the purported honey bottles with dead

bees". He observed that other common ways in which consumers are exploited in the marketplace include supply of worn-out and defective goods; sell of counterfeit products; use of false weighing machines and other measuring tools; false advertisement

claims on their products and services; misleading consumers by making false promises; use of sub standard quality products that do not meet the minimum quality standards and charge of an exceptionally high and unjustified price from customers.

News

Abia Government Intensifying Efforts At Improving Ease Of Doing Business

By: Blessing Anienwe

The Abia state government has disclosed that it is making concerted efforts towards improving the ease of doing business in the state so as to attract investors.

The Commissioner for Trade, Commerce, and Industry, Dr. Chimezie Ukaegbu made this known when he received in audience, Prince Ebeano and Co in his office at Umuahia, recently. He said that the state is open to both potential and prospective investors and values the role they play in the development of the state's economy. Dr. Ukaegbu, who said that when businesses are working, the economy grows, revealed that government understands the importance of providing a conducive business environment in the state.

The commissioner, further stated that when the environment is conducive for business, there will be development, cash flow and revenue generation for the state. He reiterated that the doors of the state are always open to investors as the state would continue to improve the ease of doing business.

Dr. Chimezie, called on investors to always partner with the state as the state will provide them a soft landing to do their business.

Speaking earlier, the Head of Finance, Prince Ebeano and Co, Uko Amogu Nnate, stated that the organization is passionate about local contents. He revealed that a section of all their supermarkets would be dedicated to made-in-Abia products as they already have a

market and international presence which manufacturers would benefit from.

Mr. Uko Amogu Nnate, further disclosed that they would be working with manufacturers to produce made-in-Abia products that will carry the Prince Ebeano and Co label and that will increase demand for made-in-Abia products. He further added that Prince Ebeano and Co will bring the one-stop shop experience to Abia with a variety of items, guaranteeing safety and convenience.

Mr. Amogu, further explained that they will provide backward integration where they will work with local farmers to eliminate issues of wastages, damage of produce and transportation. He revealed also that the company will encourage expansion of production of produce which will create both direct and indirect employments.

The head of Finance, Prince Ebeano and Co reaffirmed that they are committed to investing in the state and asked what incentives, the state is willing to offer the organization. He hunted, that the organization is in need of either a landed property or property they can lease.

Also speaking, the Business Development Manager, Mr. Sunny Eke Okorie, stated that Abia is a viable place to invest due to the efforts of the present administration, adding that the good road networks and improved security has made Abia state a hot bed for investors.

Abia HOS, calls on Abians to support Governor Alex Otti's policies, programmes

By: Ngozi Ndubueze

The Abia State Head of Service (HOS), Dr. Mrs. Ngozi Queen Obioma, has called on Abians to support the policies and programs of Governor Alex Chioma Otti in making the State better than it was.

Dr. Obioma made this call when the people of Uzuakoli Development Association, visited her, in Umuahia recently.

The HOS, who applauded the unwavering commitment of the present administration to making life bearable for the citizenry, urged them to reciprocate Governor Otti's gesture by protecting government facilities located in their different communities.

The number one Civil Servant, who described the people of Uzuakoli, as great farmers, advised them to embark on aggressive farming, not

only to flood the State with rich agricultural products but to also reduce the increasing rate of hunger and poverty in the land.

Dr Mrs. Obioma, promised to always justify the confidence reposed on her by ensuring a virile and proactive Civil/Public Service.

Earlier, Mr. Obinali Ihedinobi, of Uzuakoli Development Association, said they were on the visit to thank Governor Alex Chioma Otti, for appointing their Daughter, Dr. Mrs. Ngozi Queen Obioma, as the Abia State Head of Service.

Mr. Ihedinobi, who described Dr. Mrs. Obioma, as a thorough bred Civil Servant with integrity, pledged their unflinching loyalty to the Gov. Otti led administration in his efforts to realizing a New Abia.



■ Gov. Alex Otti (centre), with the former Speakers of Abia State, during an event, in Aba, recently

Conference of Ex-Speakers Commends Otti, Labour Party On Governance, Developmental Projects

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

The Conference of Former Speakers of the Abia State House of Assembly, has praised the developmental projects undertaken by Governor Alex Otti's Labour Party administration.

The former Speakers drawn from the various political parties made their feelings known when they accompanied Governor Otti to inspect ongoing road projects in Aba, the commercial nerve center of the state and its environs.

Some of the ongoing road projects inspected during the tour include; Peoples Road, Ndoki Road, Old Court Road, Ehi Road, Port Harcourt Road.

Others are; Omuma Road, Industrial Road, Umuodu Avenue, University Road, all in Aba, and Mgbedeala-Omoba Road in Isialangwa South LGA.

Speaking to Newsmen on behalf of the former Speakers, Rt. Hon. Stanley Ohajuruka, while commending the efforts of Governor Otti, noted the importance of good governance, and encouraged the Governor not to relent in bringing democracy dividends to the people.

Ohajuruka who emphasized that although the former Speakers are from different political parties, said that one does not have to be affiliated with the same political party to recognize positive achievements.

The former speaker noted that Governor Otti has shown a posture of a statesman, transcending party affiliations, and urged him to engage individuals from diverse political backgrounds in decision-making processes.

"Governor Otti has shown us that he is not just a Governor for Labour Party where he belongs. We are very happy for that and we want to encourage him to ensure that everybody is brought on board towards contributing their own quota".

He highlighted the overwhelming support demonstrated by the people of Abia State and emphasized the need for the Governor to remain focused and work tirelessly to meet the high expectations of the populace.

"We are quite impressed with what we saw, we are deeply impressed and we want to encourage him (the Governor) to do even more.

You could see from the

outpouring of support he will achieve for the people of Abia state", Ohajuruka affirmed.

Also speaking, Rt. Hon Christopher Enweremadu expressed happiness with the Governor for achieving results within a short frame of time and for meeting the expectations of the people of the state and prayed God to help him to accomplish more for Abians.

Earlier, while addressing the people at various spots during the inspection, Governor Otti emphasized the strategic and economic significance of the roads and urged the contractors to accelerate their efforts to ensure the completion of the roads before the onset of rains.

He said that the inspection was aimed at ensuring compliance with specifications and to assess the progress of the road projects.

Other members of the Conference of Former Speakers of Abia State House of Assembly who accompanied Governor Otti on the road inspection tour include; Rt. Hons. Arua Arusi, Agwu U. Agwu, Ude Okochukwu, Martins Azubuike and Chikwendu Kalu.

"We do not have any

News

Desist from activities that degrade the environment, Abia Commissioner warns

By: Blessing Anienwe

The Commissioner for Environment, Mr. Philemon Asonye Ogbonna, has called on the public to desist from activities that degrade the environment.

The Commissioner, who made the call during the demonstration of clean-cook-stoves with less emissions at the Ministry of Environment recently in umuahia, pointed out that most harmful activities that affect the environment stem from the reluctance of man to conform to nature.

He charged the staff members of the Ministry to take the issue of Climate Change serious, adding that climate change is all about creativity and elimination of hazardous elements. He added that the Ministry is the promoter of clean environment and stressed the need for the staff to get the renewable stove which according to him has the potentials of earning carbon credits for the State in addition to improving our carbon footprints.

Mr. Ogbonna further revealed that the Ministry is in the vanguard of championing the campaign for renewable energy, hence the need for the staff to be well informed, in order to educate the public on the importance of the stove and directed the Department of Climate Change of the Ministry driving the activity, to seek ways of getting international donors to help in subsidising the price.

The Environment Commissioner also said that it is important to key into the mantra of the present administration of Dr Alex Chioma Otti, which aim is to improve the general quality of life and keep the environment of Abia clean.

Earlier, Mrs. Priscilla Ogbonna of the Initiative for Care and Support to the Less Privileged (ICASULP), who are technical partners to the Ministry on clean cooking, enumerated some of the benefits of the Renewable Energy Cook Stove to include, non-use of fuel, non-use of gas and electricity, non-use of kerosene to reduce emissions and equally reduce cost and stress in cooking.

Highlight of the event was the demonstration on how to use the stove in cooking local delicacies using two pots and an insulator.

The event attracted the presence of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Lady Joy Maduka, Director of Climate Change, Mr Chris Ike, Director of Forestry, Mr John Ikpegbu, Director of Administration, Mr. Emeka Alaribe and other staff of the Ministry.

Ariaria Set To Compete With International Markets

By: Okereke Kate

Ariaria International Market, Aba, in no distant time will be wearing a standard look of an international market, capable of competing with other markets around the globe.

Located within the South East region of Nigeria, Ariaria International Market, is one of the biggest market East of the Niger, with business activities bustling on daily basis.

Having suffered infrastructural decay over the years, which had relegated the international standard of the market, a visionary investor of a great repute, Engineer Henry Okoroafor, who is also the Chief Executive Officer of Blessed Henken International, through a Private Public Partnership (PPP), commenced the remodeling and face lifting of the entire shops at the market, to meet international standard and as well, to boost economic activities and benefits, of the commercial nerve centre of the state.

In a tour with journalists, through the ongoing first phase of the project which comprised of the rebuilding of over four thousand shops (4,000), the CEO, Engr Henry Okoroafor, said he decided to rebrand the market to meet international standard, where economic activities are done in a more conducive environment, aside boosting the state's revenue and the aesthetic view of the market.

According to him, his target is to remodel all commercial centres in the state, with special focus on Ariaria International market, that is already faced with erosion menace, bad road, dilapidated building structures, poor trading facilities, shallow drainages, insecurity among others.

He said that with the new structure, buyers and sellers will be doing business in a more relaxed environment, with little or no problem confronting them.

It was gathered that the first phase of the project which is 80 percent completed has unique features like fire proof doors, such that when there is a fire outbreak in a particular shop, the fire springing system on the door will quench the fire, giving no room for the fire to spring to other shops, a luxurious rest points for male and female, Internet facility, loading and offloading bay, constant water and electricity supply, elevator, spacious stores and security, for the purpose of



New look of Ariaria International Market, Aba

enhancing trading activities.

In an interview, Engr Okoroafor, disclosed that the project which started during the past administration of Dr Okezie Ikpeazu, also received a boost under the present government of Dr Alex Otti.

disclosing on what formed his decision to venture into the multibillion-naira edifice, the Chief Executive Officer of Blessed Henken International, said having spent twenty-five years in China, he was moved to come back home to implement the transformation and fast growth he witnessed in China, paving way for Aba to compete effectively with other industrialized cities in Nigeria and the world at large.

"China is a nation that believes in healthy competition, so by rebuilding Ariaria, we are preparing it to compete with other big markets in Lagos, Abuja and across the globe. Without that competition, we can't actually develop the state or even the nation.

"This project started in October 2021, under the then Governor of the state, Dr Okezie Ikpeazu, the project is privately funded, but it is being operated under Public Private Partnership (PPP).

"I came with my Chinese team, that will fund the project. The issue of funding is not really an issue. We don't need state government funds to drive the project". Engr Okoroafor disclosed that the idea of the remodeling project is to build the entire city of Aba within a period of seven years and maintain same for

another 20 years.

He intimated that, Ariaria market Aba, was leased to his company for a period of ten years, adding that they can only get return of their investment when they build Aba to the point of attracting other investors.

"The place was leased to us for a period of ten years. So, we will demolish old structures and build new ones. The price of the new shops are almost same price with the old ones.

"We considered the existing shop owners in the plan, while new owners pay six million Naira for a shop space, we are collecting five million naira from the old shop owners".

He commended the efforts of the past Governor, most especially in assisting them to access a loan facility for the project, lauding the commitment of the present Governor, Dr Alex Otti, who bought into the idea and released his support for the project to be realized. Meanwhile, Engr Okoroafor beckoned on Nigerians and Abians in particular to give their continuous support to the development of the Nation and their respective states, maintaining that the nation belongs to everyone and it is only the citizens that can develop it.

"Our target is to turn Ariaria market to Dubai. So far, we have about 4200 shops currently, with 10 hours

power supply, good road network, all the buildings connected to each other and the issue of flooding has been severely tackled. We have elevated this part of the market to be higher than faults road where the flood comes from, so far, we will not have any issue of flooding here".

He called for more support for the betterment of Ndi Abia and South East as a whole, revealing that other projects that the company would venture into in the nearest future, will include, the opening up of new areas in Aba, that will replace old ones.

In an interview, the CEO of Papparipa Gold jewelries, said the new building has added more value to his business, as customers now patronize him more than before.

A buyer, Maureen Anagbo, said that she loves the new trading centre because it's conducive and comfortable. "The building is perfect", she said.

Francis Ukachukwu, CEO Frankman shoes, said the environment is now excellent with more patronages from customers. "The whole Ariaria market should be remodeled".

Also, Mrs. Amaka of Jack Resources Nigeria Ltd, dealer on Italian men shoes, said they paid #10 million for two shops, stating that the patronage they get on daily basis is huge. "We have not seen this in Aba before, we have constant power supply, good convenience and security", she said.

Ex Lawmaker, Lauds FG Over Efforts to Tackle Insurgency

By: Okereke Kate

The member representing South East in the North East Development Commission (NEDC), Rep Sam Onuigbo, has commended the Federal Government for its efforts in tackling Insurgency in Nigeria.

In a media chat with journalists in Abia, the ex-Lawmaker and chairman in charge of Security and Climate Change at the NEDC, said the activities of insurgents have drastically reduced compared to what

it used to be, with bomb detonating here and there in the North.

He said though the challenge still persists, but the mood at which the insurgents operate now is different from that of 2017, maintaining that the efforts of the Federal Government in achieving this, should be recognized.

According to him, the camps of these insurgents were visited before normalcy was restored, adding that almost all the states in the North were taken over by insurgents, stating that

the situation has changed, as most of the activities of these terrorists have been clamped down and development gradually setting in.

Onuigbo disclosed that part of the objectives of the North East Development Commission is to address the challenges that have arisen from the

Insurgency, which is to rehabilitate, resettle and reconstruct areas that were destroyed.

He said the aim goes beyond physical

reconstruction, as the Commission is set to rehabilitate the indigenes. "Give education or skill to them and as well promote every program geared towards human development".

Onuigbo equally stated that the NEDC would indulge in any means to reintegrate, both the states and their residents, commending the tireless efforts of the Federal Government to get the states in the North East back on track.

NATIONAL Ambassador
"Uplift the people, project the nation" Tuesday 16th January 2024

Arochukwu - Ndi Okereke - Ozu Abam Road Project flag off: Breaking a Historical Jinx



The Dr. Alex Otti Administration is at the verge of breaking a historical jinx with the recent flag off of the Arochukwu-Ndi Okereke- Ozu Abam Road Project.

The importance of that event will be properly appreciated when its understanding is situated within its proper historical context.

Arochukwu is the last part of Igbo land. It is also very remote and quite removed from other parts of Igbo land. Its geographical location makes the journey to and fro this ancient and historical kingdom a herculean task. The natives themselves appreciate this fact as they have a common saying that 'there is no easy road to Aro' "onweghi uzo esi a ga Aro di nfe".

Ordinarily, such difficulty in accessing Arochukwu should have been an enabler for the construction of good road networks that will make sojourns to and from Arochukwu an easy task, but that was never the case.

The first attempt at constructing the Arochukwu Ndi Okereke-Ozu Abam Road which is the shortest route to

Arochukwu from Umuahia and which connect most of the major communities in the Local Government Area including Abam and Ihechiowa was sometime in 1986 awarded by the Brigadier General Ike Nwachukwu Administration of the then old Imo State. The construction was abandoned as soon as Ike Nwachukwu left office. Since then, its reconstruction has been a matter of rhetoric and failed promises by all subsequent administrations since that 1986 till date.

The consequences of such failure is that most of the communities of the Local Government Area were cut off from accessing each other.

For several decades Aro residents had to traverse through Akwa Ibom State in order to access other parts of the state. Same way that people of Abam natives had to pass through Ohafia LGA or Akwa Ibom before accessing their Local Government Headquarters.

It is within the context of the enormous suffering borne and endured by the people of the area for decades that the enthusiasm shown during the recent flag off of this important road project will be appreciated. There is indeed a renewed hope and confidence that the road project will be realized this time.

Such confidence is buttressed by the able, characteristics and timely manner the Dr. Alex Otti Administration is delivering on the road projects it has so far embarked upon.

There is no doubt that the completion of this very important road project will not only shorten the travel time both to and from Arochukwu, improve the local economies, it will also break the historical jinx of bad road network which the people of that area has endured for several decades.

NATIONAL Ambassador
"Uplift the people, project the nation"

GM/Editor-in-Chief	Jones Nnanna Ike
Editor	Kingsley Ugorji
News Editor	Johnny Okeke
Asst. News Editor	Chukwuemeka Egejuru
Head, Operations Dept.	Ihednachi Okpara
Head, Commercial Dept.	Mary Ehumadu
Ag Head, Business Desk	Kelechi Eme-Ogidi
Editorial Consultant	Chike Emelike
ICT Consultant	Prince Blessing Lazarus

LETTERS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:
THE EDITOR
NATIONAL AMBASSADOR
P.M.B 7245, UMUAHIA
E-mail:nationalambassador@gmail.com

Need To End The Epileptic Electricity Power Supply In Worldbank, Umuahia.

Dear Editor,

Need to end the epileptic electricity power supply in Worldbank, Umuahia.

I count it a privilege to report on your widely read newspaper, the epileptic electricity power supply which Worldbank area of Umuahia have being getting from Enugu Electricity Distribution Company (EEDC) for almost 3yrs now.

Despite the high amount charge as monthly electricity bills to the area, residents of Worldbank area, from Health Centre to Big gutter also from Health Centre to Orpet have being experiencing very low electricity power supply.

It is so disheartening to know that there's often no power supply during the day and won't stay longer than two hours whenever there is at all before it goes off. Many businesses who depend on electricity in the area are really having bad time

I sincerely plead with the Abia state government, and the people's governor in the person of Dr. Alex Otti to call on Enugu Electricity Distribution Company to do their job to ensure constant electricity supply to residents of Worldbank in Umuahia, who are mostly civil servants and business people.

It will be unfair to them that they are expected to pay high electricity bill within two weeks the bill is served otherwise have their lines cut off.

I believe no one should be made to pay for what he/she did not consume. So electricity bills should be base on pay as you use method and not arbitrarily.

Nevertheless, I wish to appeal to EEDC to ensure stable and quality electricity supply to aforementioned areas to make live ease for residents and ease the problems faced by business people as a result of constant power failure.

Umuahia is the capital city of God's own state, no part of the city should be left unattended to.

Electricity is among major factors of development of any place just like good road networks and should not be denied any set of citizens, especially people who uses it to contribute to the growth of the economic.

By: Okechukwu Ubani
Umuahia

Opinion

Abia State Governors and Deputy Governors pensions (Repeal) law, 2024: A Step in the Right direction

By: Okechukwu Ubani

The signing into law, an executive bill by the Abia state house of Assembly seeking to outlaw the payment of pension to Abia state former Governors and their deputies, by Dr Alex Otti led administration is actually a step in the right direction and should be emulated by other governors across the states. It is an indication that Dr Alex Otti is feeling the pulse of majority of Abians who elected him as the governor of the state. This bold step taken by Dr. Alex Otti by assenting to the bill, known as the Abia state Governors and Deputy Governors pension (Repeal) law, 2024 as passed by the state house of Assembly, has put to a stop, payment of pensions running into hundreds of millions that has been going to the past governors of Abia and their deputies for years, the money can now be plugged into Infrastructure and other necessary developments that the state is in dire need of. Other states that are still paying their former governors and deputies' outrageous amounts of money as life

pensions should follow the footsteps of Dr. Alex Otti and outlaw such payments.

Hitherto, The Abia state Governors and Deputy Governors pension law No. 4 of 2001, which has now been repealed, stipulates that former Abia governors and deputies are entitled to 100 percent of the annual basic salary of the incumbent governor and deputy; their cooks, stewards, drivers, and

gardeners are to be paid by the state. They are also entitled to three police officers and two operatives of the Department of State Services (DSS). The life pension law was signed in 2001 by Senator Orji Kalu while he held sway as the governor of Abia state, God's own state.

In Dr Alex Otti's statement while signing the bill into law, he said that, it is not about self-interest, adding that self-interest destroys

government. This simply means and indicates that Dr Alex Otti's government has the interest of the people at heart and is poised to leave a good legacy after his administration. It will be observed, that Governor Alex Otti is toeing the same line as that of Peter Obi, the Presidential candidate of Labour party in the 2023 presidential election, who did the same thing when he was the Executive Governor of

Anambra state.

With this particular action, Dr Alex Otti have displayed a wonderful quality that shows leadership stewardship in public service, rather than self-interest. The Governor has also shown his commitment to the good people of God's own state and has demonstrated his desire in promoting good governance and accountability.

In the Governor's words, 'any leader who views governance as a personal business has lost sight of their responsibilities to the people'.

Gov. Otti's decision to ban the payment of pensions to Abia former governors and their deputies, is a pointer to his administration's dedication in prioritizing the welfare of a larger number of Abia citizens and not just only the Elites, and fostering a transparent and accountable government. According to a former president, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo

(GCFR), when he paid a courtesy visit to Dr Alex Otti in the Governor's country home, (Nvosi, Isialangwa South Local Government Area), he appreciated and commended the Governor for ending the payment of pension to former governors and their deputies describing it as outrageous. He stated that the pension payment is only outrageous but also a daylight robbery because it allows them to have a house in Abuja and elsewhere and cart away whatever they feel like carting away yet the pension for ordinary people is left unpaid.

We should also look into the implications of the law for Dr Alex Otti himself as a future former governor. It simply means that as a potential former governor, he will not be receiving pension after his service to the good people of Abia.

This laudable action by Dr Alex Otti, should be commended by all Abians and even beyond the state, as a selfless decision by a leader collectively elected by the people of God's own state.

This bold step taken by Dr. Alex Otti by assenting to the bill, known as the "Abia state Governors and Deputy Governors pension (Repeal) law, 2024" as passed by the state house of Assembly, has put to a stop, payments of pensions running into hundreds of millions that has been going to the past governors of Abia State and their deputies for years, the money can now be plugged into Infrastructural and other necessary developments that the state is in dire need of.

Wisdom for living

With
Ezewuru Adaeze Mary

Dreams are aspirations, desires or supposed purpose for living.

Funny enough, a dream literally is gotten at a subconscious state and it focuses more on the future for its fulfillment.

However, a dream cannot be fulfilled at a state of unconsciousness, rather it can only be fulfilled by conscious efforts of resilience, determination, diligent hard work and dedication. The saying "if wishes are horses, beggars will ride" is very true of making dreams come true.

Dreams do not come true

on a platter of gold, it doesn't answer to "I wish yet doing nothing" but to an unwavering, untiring heart with a strong will and desire for accomplishment - a heart that will not take a "No" for an answer.

Dreams neither answer to chances nor to games of luck, it fulfillment requires an intentional act of hard-work and perseverance. Worthy of note is the fact that, a dream always seems impossible and unrealistic at the beginning and sometimes bigger than the dreamer's ability, resources and experience or knowledge.

No wonder most great dreamers often cry for help towards the accomplishment of their dreams, they sometimes lament how helpless or deserted they become in an attempt to see the dream come true.

As an aspiration, dream is a desire to finding solution to a particular challenge, which brings

fulfillment, joy and happiness. For example, inventors of electrical appliances, IT expertise, specialized medical practitioners, teachers and religion leaders.

Dreams as a purpose for living means being dead to a course, having full knowledge of the reason for one's existence and not ready to give up until it is

accomplished not minding challenges or seemingly impossible situations on the way of its fulfillment. For example, Jesus Christ, who endured all for the salvation of mankind.

While dream as a desire, means a thirst for a particular success/victory, a hope for a particular option among several others, this sometimes might not find fulfillment, so the dreamer simply desires and accepts one among the many options left.

Every dream requires moving out of one's comfort zone and taking the bull by the horn. People who have written

their names on the sand of times are great fighters, purpose driven and goal getters.

Great achievers are people who forget their weaknesses, negative situations and limitations, they took up their destiny in their hands and became responsible, they are not fault finders seeking whom to blame for what doesn't work.

What is your dream? What is that aspiration of your heart that seems so impossible now? Do not lose focus, do not be discouraged, stand up! take necessary steps - study more, go learn that skill, speak out, help is on the way.

As an aspiration, dream is a desire to finding solution to a particular challenge, which brings fulfillment, joy and happiness.

News

ANPC BOSS Commends The Existing Cordial Relationship Between Federal Legislators And The State Government

By Okere Ugochinyere & Stephanie Adindu

The General Manager of Abia Newspapers & Publishing Corporation, Hon Jones Ike has commended the existing cordial relationship existing between Federal legislators and the Abia State Government

Hon Ike made this remark while on a courtesy call to Hon Ginger Onwusibe, the member representing Isiala Ngwa North/South Federal Constituency at the National Assembly in his residence at Ntigha Isiala Ngwa Local Government Area of the State.

Hon Ike said that the past relationships between Federal Legislators and the State Governors were characterized by conflicts and mutual recriminations which cost the State a lot in terms of federal presence. He said such cordial relationship that exists today between Federal Legislators and the State Government

is already translating into Seamless attraction of



Hon. Jones Nnanna Ike

qualities of Hon Onwusibe which has enabled him to attract several projects to the people of Isiala Ngwa

federal presence by both North/South Federal parties into the State.

Hon Ike particularly response, The federal law extolled the sterling and maker thanked the exemplary leadership

Governor of the State Dr Alex Otti for appointing people with immense capabilities to manage critical state institutions and for offering good leadership to the people of Abia State. He used the opportunity to recall the numerous achievements he has so far recorded. Chief Onwusibe also reiterated his resolve to continue to work with the State administration in ensuring that the dividends of democracy is being brought to the people of his constituency in particular and the entire state.



Hon Ginger Onwusibe

Food Scarcity: Abia Born Farmer Urges Nigerians To Go Back To Agriculture

By: Okereke Kate

Abia born farmer and businessman, Ichie Eugene Ibeh, has urged Nigerians to go back to Agriculture, if the current challenge of food scarcity will be resolved.

In an interview with our Reporter, the cassava farmer, said with the recent hike in food prices, the only way out, is for government to encourage more people to go into Agriculture by providing Agricultural inputs, security and stabilizing other factors that can contribute to the growth of the sector.

Ibeh who made reference to the era of the former Premier of the then Eastern Region, Late Michael Okpara, described the period as progressive, because of the huge investment on Agriculture, adding that if the present government could borrow a leaf from that administration then the issue of food insecurity would be tackled in Nigeria.

Ichie Ibeh who supported the recent move of the institutionalization of a state police in Nigeria, said it would help arrest the prolonged farmers/herders crisis that has contributed majorly to the abandonment of Agriculture in Nigeria, banditry, kidnapping among other threats facing the local farmers. He said the State Police would help restore sanity in various communities and farmers would be glad to go back to Agriculture without the fear of being kidnapped, raped or killed or their crops being destroyed by cattles. Ichie Eugene Ibeh who is also the

Patron of Building Materials Dealers, Industrial Market, Umuahia, while highlighting some of the challenges traders face at the industrial market, said erosion is quite disturbing in the market, as a result of bad roads. This, he said, had forced some traders to abandon their shops.

Ibeh while calling for more improved conditions in the market like the provision of water, electricity, fire services, security and infrastructural development, appreciated the Governor of the state, Dr Alex Otti for the palliative work along Ikot Ekpene road, which he said had alleviated the sufferings of road users.

The Chief Task force of the Market, Chidi Ibeh, in his view, appreciated the Federal Government for seeing the importance of instituting a State Police, stressing that the work already are too much to handle by the various security agencies.

He said, when state police are instituted, farmers can freely go back to farm, without the fear of being attacked by bandits or kidnappers, adding that the recent activities of bandits, fulani herders, have contributed to the rising food insecurity.

The Chief Task force, further lamented the state of the economy under President Bola Tinubu, stating that it has affected their businesses, as people no longer buy materials for building.

He also highlighted the challenges the traders are facing in the market, calling on the government to come to their aid.

Shun Oil Bunkering, NDDC Commissioner, Eruba Charges Youths

By Chukwuemeka Egejuru & Adindu Stephanie

The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) has charged Ndoki youths and their counterparts in Abia state to shun oil bunkering, adding that it has devastating negative effects on the nation's economy.

The Commissioner representing Abia state in NDDC, Hon. Eruba Dimgba who disclosed this when he received in audience Ndoki youths at Okeikpe, Ukwa-West Local Government Area (LGA), Abia state

yesterday, decried oil bunkering in the region, urging youths to partner with the NDDC to secure the environment in order to improve Abia state oil producing capacity as well as its quota in the commission.

He reiterated the commission's commitment to youth empowerment, provision of critical infrastructure, and Human Capital Development among others.

He added that the intervention agency exists to serve the youths, women and sustainable

development of everyone in the region.

Hon. Eruba also revealed that the aged-long abandoned 18.6km Owaza road is undergoing immediate reconstruction by NDDC while Ukwa-East roads and solar lightening projects have been captured in the 2024 national budget.

Eruba who further maintained that investors would come in once the environment is secured, also noted that the commission is collaborating with Geometric Power to get

steady electricity to improve the economic fortune in the Ukwa-East region.

Earlier in his remark, a youth leader, Comrade Ugwumba Adiele who congratulated Hon. Eruba for his reappointment as a commissioner in NDDC, also applauded his actions and commitments towards the development of oil-rich Ukwa region.

Comrade Adiele who also commended the NDDC Commissioner for facilitating the reconstruction of the failed portions of the Obhe-

Azumini road, expressed the readiness of Ndoki youths to collaborate with the commission towards the rebuilding of the area.

Contributing, the Chairman, National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), Ukwa-East chapter, Comrade Emmanuel Akparanta called on the commission to support Ndoki youths in the areas of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), employment opportunities, scholarship among others, adding that it would curb youth restiveness in the area.

He further restated their commitments towards partnering with NDDC to curb oil bunkering in the area, lamenting that it has hampered sustainable development in the area.

In his vote of thanks, the President, Ijaw Youth Council, Ndoki Chapter, Comrade Sampson Belle, thanked the NDDC commissioner for the warm reception and fatherly pieces of advice, adding that they would always support the commission towards the realization of their set goals in the region.



Lets talk

with
Auntie Eberechukwu Eneh
08168714814

Dear Auntie Eberechukwu,

My mother-in-law denied me before her younger sister that I did not give her food for the whole day. Her sister shouted at me and called me names. Just tell me should I continue giving her food since she cannot appreciate my effort. Where it pains me is that none of her children asked her whether she has eaten or not.
Catherine - Aba

Catherine, continue to give your mother in law food, never mind what she said, at times aged people don't know what they talk, they behave like children. Do not look at her children, there is reward for every work, forgive her and her sisters. Tell her that you don't like what she said, Respect and show her love. Try to guide her in certain issues and take her as your own mother. Do not yield to the advice of people that will cause more problem. Take whatever happens as one of those things and try to endure. Call the attention of her children concerning the welfare of their mother. It is too bad of them if they don't ask of their mother. Infact, let her sisters be aware because this is where they are supposed to talk. Remember that one day, you will be a mother-in-law.

My Elder Sister.

Dear Auntie Eberechukwu,

My elder sister is dating my husband, what will I do.
Funke - Lagos

Funke, talk to your sister, remind her that the man in question is her in-law which your husband is. Ask her if she noticed that another woman is after your husband what will she do?

Let your parents and siblings be aware of what is happening, watch out for a change in her. Talk to your husband as well but don't expose him yet to his own people.

If your sister persists in that silly behavior with your husband, raise alarm to his kinsmen and family members. Watch out for their reactions.

If your husband repents of such behavior, forgive him and let all hurts be over. Forgive your sister as well if she truly repents of such ill-act. She should leave your house if she is living with you to avoid temptations. Be yourself and don't let the gossips and intruders destroy your family make sure that what you accused your husband of is real before you talk. Don't base on imagination or what people said because people can lie and forge, just to tarnish the image of an innocent person. Be careful and be a good wife. Find out if the mistake is from you and correct it.

My Best-Friend Rubbished Me

Dear Auntie Eberechukwu,

Somebody I called my best friend rubbished me at my back before my madam, just for her to be favoured. Should I react to this or should I keep quiet?
Ngozi - Aba.

Ngozi, whatever rubbish she said, if you are innocent, God will surely speak for you. Talk if you are called to answer for the accusation levelled against you. Say the truth and leave the rest for God. Do not fight, what people say about you will last for a little while. She will not get the favour because there is reward for every work. The moment she gossiped, if your madam is the type that listen to gossip, they will be friends for a short period of time. Watch out and see what will happen because nothing goes for nothing.

They will also quarrel one day and expose themselves. Do your work and respect your madam. Do not let your friend's behavior weigh you down. Take it that she is jealous of you.

New Wife

Dear Auntie Eberechukwu,

Why is it that Polygamous men love the last wife more than others? What advise have you to give to the first wife.
Chidinma - Umuahia

Chidinma, it could be that the last wife is the youngest among all. Which means that she looks beautiful and attractive at times, the last wives exhibit characters that is good before the husbands in the name of eye service just to attract the husbands love. Whereas the old wife behaves any knows how to because she is used to the actions of the husband.

The first wife should try as much as she can to over-look them so that nothing will cause her to be sad and worry about anything. She should be happy and know her rights. One day, the new wife will be old.

Aggressive Husband

Dear Auntie Eberechukwu,

My husband has turned to be aggressive. He will leave no money for food in the house and comes back to shout at every member of the family. I do not know what I will do, it may be, I have done something wrong. I do not want people to hear my voice.
Julie - Lagos.

Julie, it is not good for your voice to be heard. Try as much as you can to endure the behavior your husband is exhibiting now. You know that things are difficult, most men have turned to be aggressive in the face of difficult condition which is not the best. Your husband does that to make you be afraid of asking him money for food. You should understand that such behavior is noticeable when there is nothing in his pocket. What you will do is to support him by providing for the family when he does not have.

Try to show him love and care so that he will not spend most of his time outside the home.

Be careful of how you make use of your utterances and never and never you turn to be a nagging wife. Things will turn to be good, so don't let this hard time cause trouble in your home. Management, patience and endurance are needed for one to survive.

Would be Mother-in-Law said no.

Dear Auntie Eberechukwu,

The man that asked for my hand in marriage called to say that his mother rejected me, she said no to the marriage and he will obey his mother. Please what will I do?
Ngozi - Umuahia

Ngozi, forget that, he is not your husband. When your husband comes, there will be no excuse to give. Be yourself and accept it with faith, someone better is coming. God has a plan for you. Be prayerful and look good always. You will celebrate soon. I wish you more grace.

Opinion

Things to Know about Poultry Farming.

By Cordelia Okafor

Poultry farming is a form of animal husbandry that involves the rearing of different types of domesticated birds like chicken, turkey, ducks, geese, etc. mainly egg and meat. Chicken rearing is the most practised form of poultry farming in most homes. There is a huge demand for poultry and poultry related products in Nigeria and beyond, this, making it a highly lucrative Agribusiness to venture on. It is a highly profitable business and creates job opportunities easily for semi-skilled and non-skilled labourers. Its returns on investment is very high if well managed as its product, meat, eggs are in high demand. Even its waste, poultry dung is in high demand as manure for crop cultivation.

Before going into poultry farming as a business venture, it is necessary to have an idea of the type of poultry breed to rear since there are two major breeds that are common among poultry farmers. These are:

1. **Layers:** These type of poultry birds are specifically for personal and commercial egg productions. Layers are also used for meat when its egg production capacity has reduced. So, they perform dual function of egg and meat productions. Layers are brood from day old till the age of 18 to 19 weeks when they will start laying eggs till the 72nd to 78th Week when the egg production ability begins to reduce.

2. **Broiler:** Both females and males broiler are raised for meat production. They are often referred to as 'Meat Chickens' because they have more muscles as they grow very large and quickly. It is also raised from a day old to the age of maturity starting from 6 weeks of age to 12 weeks and above. Things you need to know before going into poultry farming business.

1) Study the cost and establish a budget: The cost needed to operate a poultry farm, is based on the capital you have at hand that can take care of the feeding and housing of the birds.

A small-scale poultry farm cost lesser than a large-

scale poultry farm due to its lower need/cost of housing and feeding. Large scale poultry farming requires huge amount of money to breed, feed, house and control diseases.

2. **Selection of site for poultry farming:** Before going into poultry farming business, you have to select a good site. Poultry farming should not be situated near a residential building because of the offensive odour that comes out from the waste product. If you cannot get a site for your farm, you can create a space in your home and start. As the number of your bird farm increases and demand goes high, you can then move the farm to a new and bigger place.

3. **Feeding of the birds:** For the birds to look healthy and strong, they must be well fed. Good clean water is a necessity in setting up a poultry farm. Accessibility to the poultry farm is very important, therefore good road network has to be considered for easy transportation of poultry products when they are ready for sale.

ADVANTAGES OF POULTRY FARMING

1. Poultry farming creates income opportunities: Poultry farming in Nigeria today could be considered as one of the highest profitable agricultural business idea. It does not need huge amount of money to start, you can begin from the comfort of your home if you have enough space that will contain the number of birds you want to start with. Through the sales of eggs, meat, day old chicks and even poultry dung/waste, a poultry farmer can realise enough money to cater for his/her needs.

2. Poultry farming provides employment opportunities: Unemployment rate has been reduced ever since poultry farming came into existence. Unemployed people can easily make a living out of poultry farming by being an entrepreneur as a commercial poultry farmer where eggs, meat, day old chicks etc are produced in large quantities and sold to people. The poultry farmer can also go ahead to employ labourers who can be in charge of some poultry works like

cleaning the poultry house, picking the eggs, feeding the birds etc. Other related Artisans in the poultry farm business like fabricators of poultry pen, poultry drinkers, manufacturers of poultry feeds etc will also be engaged.

Because of the high demand for poultry and its by-products, marketing of poultry products is another employment opportunity in poultry farming. There is also a ready market for eggs and meat, which are the major products of poultry farming, so these are easily sold in the local markets around you instead of traveling to a far distance where transportation cost may be so high.

4. **Wide demand:** The nutritional value of chicken and its freshness increases the demand for poultry food. Poultry products are more preferable almost all over the world than other meats.

5. **Availability of Credit facility to Poultry farmers** by Financial institutions:

Most financial institution prefer giving financial help to poultry farmers. The poultry farmers have the advantage of getting loan from banks, this is because poultry products are easy to sell without much stress so default of repayment of loan is very low.

Disadvantages of poultry farming

1. Initial Start-up Capital:

Every business requires an initial capital to start, poultry farming inclusive. You will need finance to stock up the type of poultry you want, either layers or broilers, also huge amount of money is required to acquire the land for the poultry farming, build the poultry house and other infrastructures/equipments needed to start up a poultry farm.

2. Need for Adequate labour:

Poultry farming is using labour intensive. It requires manual labour in the area of cleaning the poultry house, feeding the birds, monitoring them to know their health status and so on.

3. **Lack of poultry feeds with enough nutritional value:** Most poultry feeds sold in the market do not contain enough nutrients needed by the birds. This

leads to high mortality rate in birds experienced by poultry farmers.

4. **Disease Outbreak:** Frequent disease outbreak is very common in poultry farming as you can lose hundreds of birds in one swoop if not well managed. When the farm is dirty there is every tendency that the birds can contact some infection and diseases as birds are very sensitive to environmental changes. The health care of the birds are very important if not any outbreak of disease will affect them easily.

5. **Scarcity of Poultry vaccines in agro- allied industry:** lack of animal vaccines especially for poultry in the agro- allied industry leads to high mortality rate in birds. The birds need to be vaccinated to avoid getting infected by any outbreak of disease, if not, the casualties rate will be high.

6. **Contaminated and high cost of feed:** Poultry feeds are very costly and chicken eats too much. High cost of poultry feeds has made poultry farmers reduce the quality and quantity of feeds they give to their birds, thereby reducing the amount of nutrients intake by the birds resulting in their reduced output. Malnutrition affects the growth of birds, reduces their immunity to fight diseases and make them unhealthy.

Poultry farming should be a business to consider if you are looking for a business that will yield profit in shortest period of time. The return on investment in poultry farming is very fast, for example, you can be raising a day-old broiler chick and start selling it in the next 40-45 days while layers will start laying eggs in the next 4-5 weeks. So, you will start earning income in the next 10-16 weeks or 4 months depending on the type of poultry you decide to rear.

If planning to start a poultry farm business, whether it is for egg production, meat production or combination of both, you need to know the principles of operating a profitable poultry farm, if not, unexpected difficulties may lead to the project failure.

Ambassador Woman with Ihuoma Egbeogu

There are several tons of ways to become more attractive as a woman. With the quest for fashion, it is important for every woman to know how best to become attractive. Most often, we see women losing out of beauty just because they feel they are married and usually despise the need to look pleasing to the eye. They could be seen tying wrapper across their chest. Such an unwholesome dressing is very wrong. Women are expected to look attractive for their spouses, neighbours, colleagues, friends and every other person she comes across with. Therefore, the essence of being attractive cannot be over emphasized. It becomes imperative for women to seek for ways of looking attractive. Below are ten ways of looking attractive and trendy.

Dress appropriately for your body type: It is important to dress on clothing that look good on you. Don't bother imitating others when it comes to clothing because what fits one and makes her look attractive may make another look unbecoming. It is important to take cognizance of your body size while choosing a clothing. However, in choosing a cloth, ensure you choose one that show off your best assets and cover up your worst ones. For instance, if you have a hourglass figure, wear form fitting dresses that will show off your curves. Bulky or boxy clothes should be avoided. This is where women get it wrong, in a bit to show off their best assets, they tend to go barely nude exposing their breast and tummy which eventually makes them look unattractive and irresponsible, the aim being defeated. Ignoring the size on the label could help when it comes to clothing, all that matters is how best a cloth fits on you. Sometimes, the size on the labels varies from one make to another.

Be mindful of your shape: Looking attractive boils down to your shape. One cannot look attractive when you are out of shape. Therefore, it becomes imperative that every woman seeks to maintain a good shape. It is important to always check your weight on either daily or weekly basis to stay abreast in shape. Drop a few pounds of weight by reducing your caloric intake and incorporate cardio exercises into your daily routine. Eating more fruits, vegetables, lean protein will help achieve this target of keeping fit.

Ten Ways To Look Attractive As A Woman

Wear an ideal hairstyle: Taking cognizance of your hairstyle is one sure way of looking attractive. Wear fitting hairstyles that align with your body size. Most often, some women go on low cut while they have tiny body structure. This usually makes them look unattractive. Low cut hairstyle is better for bodily statured women. Search out for trendy fitting hairstyles to make you look attractive.

Different hair collections are available everywhere. Always remember to buy hair wigs that of your size and not buying it because it is expensive and trendy.

Maintain personal hygiene: Personal hygiene is sacrosanct in looking attractive. It improves your appearance and makes you stay healthy. One cannot be talking about looking attractive when you are sick as a result of poor hygienic condition. Maintaining a good personal hygiene which ranges from brushing of teeth regularly, taking a good shower, shaving, keeping neat nails, using deodorants, perfumes, washing your clothes regularly.

Effective treatment of skincare problems: The skin is the first point of eye contact on your body. One cannot be talking about looking attractive when you have skin problems. It is important to tackle skin problems effectively to avoid being embarrassment that goes with it. Skincare problems include blemishes, scars, skin tags, eczema, sun burn etc. Engage a dermatologist to handle your skincare problems.

Knowing beauty tips: Looking attractive encompasses knowing the right beauty tips to apply. It is important that while searching to look

attractive, attention should be payed in using the right make up. Using the appropriate skin colour foundation is important. The use of concealer on problem areas is important when beauty tips come to play. Make use of subtle lip colour that matches to make you look good.

Embrace a positive attitude: Ones attitude determines your attitude in life. It goes a long way of portraying an inner beauty in a woman. No one wants to associate with a negative attitude person. Most often, negative attitude easily influences. A positive attitude such as smiling brings out the beauty in you and makes you look attractive. More so, having an approachable and accommodating look makes you stand out. Everyone wants to associate with a person with such virtues. These automatically make you look attractive. Being confident in one's self is another positive attitude to take in. If you want to look attractive. Aspire to have a sense of humour. These virtues will distinguish you from the crowd and make you look enviable and attractive. People desire to be close to people who are fun loving and happy. It is imperative to imbibe such attitude, to enable one look attractive.

Shun stress: It is emphatically difficult to live without being stressed. But the ability to effectively manage stress to avoid weighing one down is what matters most. Stress can wreak havoc on the skin and appetite. It also affects one's mood, making you look unattractive. There are several ways of curbing stress, these include going for a nature walk, clubbing, going on a picnic, talking to a friend, eating and drinking in cool conducive environment, going to a recreation park etc.

Being self-sacrificing: Being sensitive to people's needs is a good way of looking attractive. People tend to appreciate and envy people who are selfless. Going to motherless homes, old people's homes, makes you look attractive.

Embrace a good walking posture: The way you walk showcases your attractiveness. Adopting a good walking style will always make you stand out in the crowd. One could double your allure simply by walking in a different way. For women, the way you swing your hips from side to side makes you look very attractive.

Finally, every woman should crave to look attractive. Beauty should be the watch word of every woman

Wear an ideal hairstyle: Taking cognizance of your hairstyle is one sure way of looking attractive. Wear fitting hairstyles that align with your body size.

Family Matters

By Okechukwu Ubani

As a married man or woman God requires that you take responsibility to actualize your dream home. You can't actualize a wonderful home without taking responsibilities.

Taking responsibility means that there is always something to do to attain your desired result. Responsibility is the price for greatness. You can't be a married man without making sure that you provide for your family, you can't be a married woman without giving your husband the necessary support he needs from you as his wife.

Therefore, it is very important as a man or woman in marriage to accept and perform your marital obligations.

Nothing works on its own, you have to work out what you want. You have to work out your marriage to make it a fulfilled and wonderful marriage.

But what are your Responsibilities?

Husband:

Be informed that your primary duty is to love, care and generally, see to the welfare of your family and make your wife happy. Greater burden is placed on the man's shoulder, to love his wife as Christ loves the Church. Also takes charge of his responsibilities with or without the help of his wife. These can be accomplished only through sacrifices, being a godly example and through an unconditional devotion, commitment and dedication to his marriage.

It is very important for you to know that your wife is your chief priority, second only to God. As a man, you are the head of the household and you bear the responsibility for the entire family unit. Your leadership position as head of the home places a great responsibility on you to protect, care for and seek the general well-being of your family spiritually, physically, and emotionally. This must be seen in action and not in mere words. You can tell your wife all day long that you love her, but until you show her that love, your words will do little to strengthen your relationship. As a husband, you need to encourage the spiritual development of your family, as Christ

Learn To Accept Responsibility In Your Marriage

encouraged the spiritual development of His disciples. You must be prepared to lay down your life for your wife and every member of your family, if necessary. This includes giving up selfish hobbies and habits which take you away from your family or drain the needed resources from the family budget. For the spiritual development of the family, it is also required that as a husband, you lead your household in the study of God's Word and in regular family devotions. You are to take the lead particularly by example, in the worship of God. In addition, you cannot direct the affairs of your family without first having daily fellowship with the Lord in prayers and the study of the Bible.

Another important responsibility of the husband is to honour his wife. This, perhaps, is even a higher level of responsibility than just providing for her physical needs. Respect, they say, is reciprocal. If a man must enjoy respect from his wife, then he must be willing first to invest in it. He must respect, admire, appreciate, praise and exalt her.

Responsibility is the price for greatness. You can't be a married man without making sure that you provide for your family, you can't be a married woman without giving your husband the necessary support he needs from you as his wife

Wife:

The woman's major responsibility, after the Lord, is to her husband and her children. The woman received the title of "help meet" in Genesis 2, which clearly established her role in the family as a kind of support to her husband. The Bible specifically demands from the woman, submission in all things. A man of wisdom, David Lipscomb, wrote, "The submission of the wife to the husband is that of love, respect and reverence, which is befitting the relation she holds to her husband. In her sphere she is spiritually unequal with man, but as a husband, he is the natural scripturally recognized head and leader of the family. Her submission must be in accordance with the principles of righteousness and nothing is required of her inconsistent with Christian character".

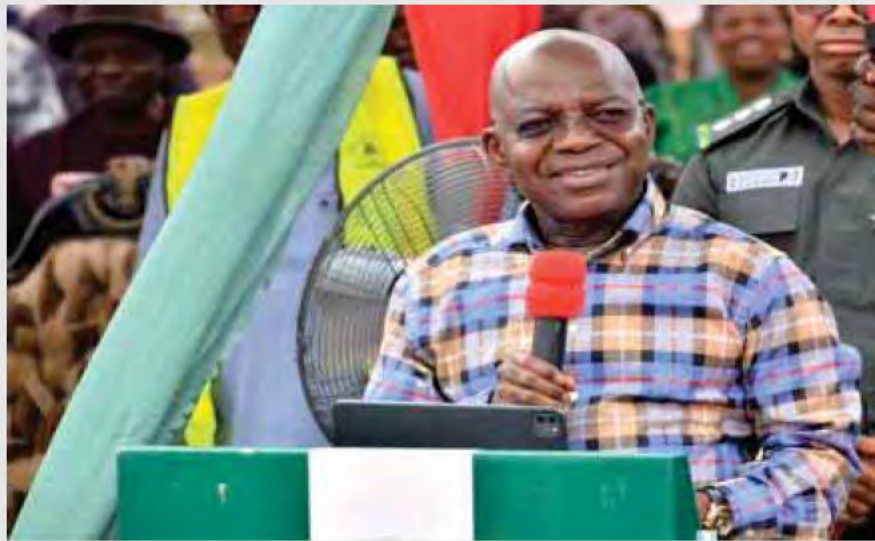
The idea of submission is a stumbling block to many women, because they equate submission with inferiority, submission can't be inferiority. Men and women are created co-equal by God, but for the purpose of His plan of redemption, God has assigned to each of them different roles to carry out. God has clearly called the wife to submit to her own husband. That is God's design ordained for her blessings. The Bible says: Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore, as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

The matter of submission is clearly indicated in the above scripture. The wife is to submit to her husband. The manner of submission is as unto the Lord and the motive is God's design to make the husband the head of the wife.

Just as the body submits to the brain located in the head by design, so the wife should submit to the husband who is the head. When you see a body that does not respond to the head, you see a deformity, you see something that is not normal. You see a dysfunctional person. The same is true in a marriage. Where a wife does not submit to her husband, there is distortion, deformity and dysfunction. God has designed that the body respond to the head and the husband is the head of the wife.

Milestone

Gov. Alex Otti Flags off Construction of 11.5 KM Nunya-Eluama Road



Milestone

Gov. Alex Otti Flags off Construction of 11.5 KM Nunya-Eluama Road

contd.





Our advert rates are:

**For Further Enquiries
08107148390**



	Rate	Tax 5%	Vat 7.5%	Total
FULL PAGE COLOUR	₦ 350,000.00	17,500	26,250	393,750
FULL PAGE BLACK & WHITE	₦ 300,000.00	15,000	22,500	337,500
HALF PAGE COLOUR	₦ 250,000.00	12,500	18,750	281,250
HALF PAGE BLACK & WHITE	₦ 200,000.00	10,000	15,000	225,000
QUARTER PAGE	₦ 150,000.00	7,500	11,250	168,750
CHANGE OF NAME	₦ 7,000.00	350	525	7,875



PUBLISHED BY:

Abia Newspapers & Publishing Corporation

Nnamdi Azikiwe Secretariat Road, Government Station Layout, Umuahia

☎ 08107148390 ✉ nationalambassadorngr@gmail.com 🌐 www.nationalambassadorngr.com

News

Ensure Safety Measures In Work Places - Dr Ukaegbu

By Blessing Anienwe

The Abia state Commissioner for Trade, Commerce and Industry, Dr Chimezie Isaac Ukaegbu has advised staff of the ministry to ensure safety measures in their work places.

The Commissioner who was represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Lolo Magdalene Onwu Kalu, gave the advice during a seminar organized by the safety Unit of the Ministry, tagged, 'management of change and relevance of safety culture'.

Lolo Magdalene Onwu Kalu, stressed that staff should see safety as a priority, stressing that every staff should be cautious of their safety both at home and in the working environment.

Lolo Magdalene further urged the staff to give maximum attention to the seminar stating that it will help them in their life

endeavours.

In his speech, the Resource person, Mr. Nnorom Stanley, from Informative, Safety and Quality Assurance Unit, educated the staff on safety management and explained measures in which the ministry and staff can be safe at all time. He further disclosed practical steps on safety measures which includes, getting people's attention on unsafe or dangerous things that could be harmful to the staff and taking care of the work place which includes making sure the work place is well maintained.

He also encouraged the members of staff to always be alert at the happenings in their working environment especially when it comes to things that can endanger their lives and properties.

Gov Otti Launches Maiden Edition Of Governor's Cup, Highlights Plans For Sports Development

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

Governor Alex Otti of Abia state has reiterated the commitment of his administration towards sports development, highlighting plans for comprehensive grassroots initiatives aimed at building world-class sporting infrastructure and nurturing young talents across the state.

Governor Otti stated this during the kickoff of the maiden edition of the Abia state Governor's secondary school Unity Games. The event which held at the Umuahia Township Stadium witnessed the convergence of talented young athletes who have proven their mettle across the 17 LGAs of the state and would compete among themselves for laurels in 24 sporting activities.

The Governor, in his address titled; "To learn, Lead And Win", emphasized the significance of the tournament as a platform for nurturing future champions, potential Olympic medalists and record-breakers, underscored the importance of their participation in shaping the future of sports development in the state.

He unveiled plans by the present administration to establish sports excellence colleges, revive of inter-school competitions, and integrate sports into the state's economic development agenda.

"What we have started with this game is a signal to what we want to do for the entire Sports ecosystem in the state.

"We have recently developed a comprehensive programme for grassroot sports development that would involve the development of sport infrastructure, training and exposure of talented sports athletes to life changing opportunities and platforms.

"We are already in talks with local and foreign partners to commence the pilot phase of the programme which would see us build model sports centers in communities and urban neighborhoods, where kids and teenagers with talents and

interest in pursuing careers in sports would be taught the ropes by accompanied professionals through a structured programme of comprehensive development. "I aim at not just shaping participants into excellent sportsmen but building whole individuals equipped with all it takes to succeed in the field of play and the larger arena.

"We envision Abia as a major hub for global sports talent. Through strategic investments and partnerships, we aim to propel our athletes to compete on the international stage, while creating economic opportunities for all stakeholders", Gov Otti remarked.

Governor Otti also called on public-spirited individuals, development partners, and businesses men to join hands with the state government in advancing the state's sports agenda and to harness the economic and social potential of sports.

He congratulated the competitors in the Games for making it to the state level and urged them to see the tournament as an opportunity to learn team work, leadership and resilience.

Earlier, the Commissioner for Sports and Youth Development, Mr. Nwaobilor Ananaba, commended the government for its efforts towards improving sports development in the state.

Ananaba said: "The government is intentional about sports and a roadmap has been designed in line with the governor's campaign promises to strengthen rural sports development".

The event attended by various dignitaries including the Chairman, Enyimba Football Club, Mr. Kanu Nwankwo, representative of the Minister of Sports also featured march past by schools from the 17 LGAs of the state and the inspection of sports equipment by Governor Otti.

Abia Gov. Advocates Sustainable Strategy To Boost IGR

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti has charged participants of the Internal Generated Revenue (IGR) retreat organized by the State government to devise a sustainable strategy to enhance the State's IGR, with a view of strengthening its fiscal viability. Governor Otti gave the charge during a special presentation of the outcome of the report of the two -day's retreat for IGR stakeholders in the Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the State government.

The Governor emphasized the need for the State's IGR to surpass loan provisions for financing the 2024 budget, and expressed confidence that with proper measures, the projected borrowing of over 400 Billion could be significantly reduced.

"If we do what we should do and we do them right, then there is no reason why the over 400 Billion that is supposed to be raised as loans should not reduce to the barest minimum.

"We expect a situation and a scenario where Internally Generated Revenue would spike up and take over our provisions for loans. So, in simple English, what I am saying is that we believe that by the end of the year, we will not borrow as much money that we had put in the budget", Governor Otti remarked.

He said that elsewhere,



Abia State Gov., Dr. Alex Otti, his Deputy, Engr. Ikechukwu Emetu, Chief of Staff to the governor, Pastor Caleb Ajagba and Head of Service, Mrs. Queen Ngozi Obioma during the special presentation of the out come of the report during the two day retreat

government generates income and undertake expenditure, describing as a misnomer, a situation where sub nationals go to the centre cap in hands for allocation.

Governor Otti expressed hope that if the right thing is done, by the end of the year, the State should not have borrowed as much as it puts in the budget.

He reiterated government's commitment to fiscal prudence, exemplified by the repeal of the pension law for ex-Governors and Deputies, emphasizing the policy's focus on good governance and cost reduction.

"So, when you see that we put through our resolve to cut cost of governance by stopping frivolous payments to people who have left

government, it is because we just believe that the right thing should be done.

"Very soon we will also be former Governor. So, the policy is not targeted at anyone, it's targeted at good governance, it's targeted at reduction in the cost of governance. And quite frankly, we believe it is the right thing to do.

"We don't believe that politics is a business. We believe that people should have things they are doing before coming to serve. And if you have offered yourself to serve, then you should be willing to make the required sacrifices.

It is expected of you to make sacrifices for the betterment of the State. So, the days of sharing money are over, the days of blood

tonic politics are also over. This is the time to make sacrifices for the interest of the State", Otti said.

The Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Mike Akpara, emphasized the imperative to overhaul the revenue generation approach, ensuring taxes align with government promises while calling for concerted efforts to alleviate the state's debt burden through enhanced IGR generation.

While explaining that the government would not tax people unduly, Mr./ Akpara called for all hands to be on deck to generate enough revenue for the state to enable government fulfill its promise of delivering democracy dividends to the people.

Church Advises Gov. Otti To Monitor Activities Of Commissioners, Other Appointees

By: Blessing Anienwe

The Catholic Lay faithful has encouraged the Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti not to relent in monitoring the activities and polices of his Commissioners and other appointees, so as to ensure that they do not derail from his mission and vision for the state.

This was contained in an address presented by the president of the Laity council, St. Michael's

Catholic Parish, Ossah Road Umuahia, Comrade Eugene Okonta, JP, during the occasion the parish's laity day celebration recently. The Laity Council president, who appreciated the strides recorded by the governor within his few month of administration particularly on road infrastructure, however appealed to him to passionately repeat same on stomach infrastructure, because according to him 'hunger is in the land'.

He also thanked the governor especially for appointing one of thier members, Catechist Ambrose Jonah, as the ASEPA manager, Umuahia Zone. He went further to encourage Dr. Otti, to continue the good works he has started in the new Abia.

"The state of our country Nigeria is not cordial; hence we should not relent, Let's trust in God, be prayerful, God has the final say towards changing

these situations", he further stated. Okonta, who enjoined Mr. Ambrose Jonah, to be the light and salt of the earth, reminded him that there are expected roles for him to play towards the growth of the new Abia, and that to whom much is given, much is expected.

Okonta, also described Laity as the congregation of all the members of the body of Christ who are not ordained either as a clergy or religious leader, pointed out that they are the largest group, of the catholic members.

"Due to the existence of the lay faithfuls who are also, visible in all the nooks and crannies in the society, they remain, an integral vanguard of the gospel message of Christ to the public using the love of one another as their main tool. Proudly speaking, all except the priests, among us are members of the laity", he clarified.

He said that the objective of the laity week's activities was for the lay faithfuls to come together, learn, pray, see each other, rejoice together and remind themselves of the great roles the church entrusted to them in the ministry of Christ.

The Laity President also appreciated the Parish priest, Very Rev. Fr. Patrick Chukwu, for his love, untiring support and personal commitment to the affairs of the parish.

In their respective speeches, the chairman of the occasion and the Vice Chairman, Nigerian Society Of Engineers, (NSE), Umuahia Branch, Engr. Nwachukwu Chris

Chibuikwe, Ph.D; Vice Chairman of the occasion, Mr. Uzoukwu Christopher; Deputy Mayor of Umuahia North Local Government Area, Hon. Anthony Okechukwu Amah; and Manager ASEPA Umuahia Zone, Catechist Ambrose Jonah, reminded the congregation that the church belongs to them all, hence the need to support the church and work effectively, efficiently and selflessly for the growth of the Church.

Earlier in his homily, the officiating priest and the Vice Rector, Nativity Spiritual Year Seminary Ozu-Abam, Rev. Fr. Callistus Onwughara, reminded the congregation that the gospel of Christ is birthed in love in a good world, hence the need to stand firm and kill the urge to sin.

He reminded the congregation of the Lenten period of 40 days of radical purification and the need to prepare their souls to welcome Christ, warning that sin has brought eternal death to man.

"The world is suffering today as a result of sin. The world today is interested in the physical aspect of life, failing to understand the spiritual aspect of it. We should strive for eternal life because one day, at the end of the journey of life, we all will meet with our master. So, we should prepare our souls to welcome Christ", Rev. Fr. Onwughara further admonished.

The Priest also pointed out that the world will be a better place when we all do things transparently embedded in love and peace, devoid of pride and selfishness.

He seized the opportunity to enjoin the Manager, Abia State Environmental Protection Agency, (ASEPA), Umuahia zone, Catechist Ambrose Jonah, whom he handed over a candle light and salt, to remain the biblical light and salt and help sustain the 'Abia must be clean and green' initiative of Gov. Alex Otti's administration.

The 2024 Laity day celebration of the Church offered an avenue to give a special reception to Catechist Ambrose Jonah and also featured two-million-naira laity fund raising for their projects.

The Umuahia Diocese President of Catholic Women Organization, (CWO) president, Mrs. Eberchukwu Agbugba; former commissioner in Abia State, Mr. Gabriel Igboko; parish council members under the chairmanship of Sir Monday Edeh, the parish Catholic Men Organization, (CMO) under the leadership of Sir Victor Atuegbu; parish CWO under the leadership of Lolo Theresa Ibebuikwe and CYON under the leadership of Prince Ikedichukwu Okorie, the Deanery Laity President, Bro. Uche Paul Osuagwu, attended the event.

News

N6.8B Power Transmission Substation To Be Completed in Akwa Ibom By Dec 2024

By Lovina Emole, Uyo

The 2X30/40MVA 132/33KV Power Transmission substation worth N6.8 billion in Ibiono Ibom to improve power supply to the people will be completed by Dec. 2024.

Mr. Suleiman Adeyemo, the Project Manager of the company handling the project, Legend Engineering Limited, disclosed this during the delivery of key component of the substation in Ididep.

Adeyemo said the project which was handed over to the company on Feb. 2023 during a groundbreaking ceremony by the former Minister of State for Power, Prince Goddy Jedy Agba, have achieved significant milestones.

He said that the funds provided was enough to acquire offshore equipment, including two transformers 2X30/40 KVA power transformers 133/33, major switch gears, VT, CVTs, and surge arresters, all of which have been procured and stored in containers.

He added that the construction of perimeter fence was 90% completed, adding that the process of jacking the transformer onto the plinths was in progress.

"We are very certain of completing the project before the end of the year, provided that sufficient funding is made available. The project is typically a 24-month endeavour, subject to funding availability.

"It was initially budgeted at N6.8 billion. However, only N500 million was released last year, which we have utilised to execute the project forward to its current state.

"The transmission power substation spans approximately 9 hectares of land and includes staff quarters and a control room. We currently have 209 drums of transformer oil and conservator tanks," Adeyemo said.

Adeyemo added that they have completed the profile drawing and obtained approval and were currently working on the transmission lines.

He expressed optimism that once the substation is completed and a reliable power supply established, many companies will be attracted to the area.

Adeyemo added that in spite of topographic challenges, with cutting and filling work of about 10 meters of the earthwork, they have equally completed the transformer plinths.

He said that the project facilitated by the former Presidential Adviser on Niger Delta Affairs, Sen. Ita Enang, was one of the best things to have happened to the people of the area in recent times

Remain Hopeful, Ndoki Would Soon Be Industrialized - King Apostle Chibuzor Tells Youths

By Chukwuemeka Egejuru & Okere Ugochinyerennaya

The founder, Omega Power Ministries (OPM) and the traditional ruler, Ikwu Orie Ohanku Ndoki autonomous community, Ukwa-East Local Government Area (LGA), King Apostle Chibuzor Chinyere has charged youths not to lose hope, owing to the present economic realities.

Apostle Chibuzor who gave the charge when he received in audience, a delegation of National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), Ukwa-East chapter in his office in Port-Harcourt, Rivers State recently, lamented that the present economic hardship has affected the vulnerable, with unemployed youths mostly affected. He decried that the Ndokis in Abia, Rivers and Akwa-Ibom states are backward and also marginalized, revealing that plans are underway to industrialize Ndoki land.

In his words: "I have made efforts to bring investors to Ndoki and from now to December 2024, Ndoki would be industrialized".

King Apostle Chibuzor further disclosed that he would continue to invest meaningfully in the youths, adding that he has brought Football Club owners abroad to scout and take young players to ply their professional trade in Europe.

The foremost cleric and philanthropist further urged youths to put their trust in the Almighty God, maintaining that the race of life is not by connection but by God's favour. He recalled that he could not finish secondary school due to poverty but through God's help and mercies, now has Professors, Medical Doctors and nurses among other professionals in his payroll system.

"Go for God's favour as it is the spiritual that



General overseer, Omega power ministry (OPM) and traditional ruler Ikwuorie Ohanku Ndoki King Apostle Chibuzor Gift Chinyere

controls the physical", he further advised. Earlier in his remark, the Chairman, National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) Ukwa-East chapter, Comrade Emmanuel Akparanta thanked King Apostle Chibuzor Chinyere for his huge investment towards the development of the youths, maintaining that it is legendary.

In his words: "Your Majesty, you've given hope to the indigent students who have lost hope of acquiring education, artisanal skills among others and we are very proud of you".

Akparanta who also commended the Clergy for bringing investors to Ukwa-East LGA recently, pleaded for

forgiveness on behalf of some Ndoki youths who betrayed their benefactor; Apostle Chibuzor.

The NYCN boss, regretted the bad attitudes of those youths, urging King Apostle Chibuzor to consider more Ndoki youths for scholarships, employment opportunities, among other human capital investment.

He further expressed the readiness of NYCN to partner with OPM towards empowering the younger ones in Ndoki land and beyond.

Highlight of the event was the decoration of the King Apostle Chibuzor with renowned Akwete fabrics, signifying honour by the executives of the apex

youth body.

Information gathered revealed that King Apostle Chibuzor Chinyere has sponsored over 4,000 indigent students abroad on scholarship. While some beneficiaries were sent to study in Turkey, Cyprus, Poland, the United States, Canada, etc., over 650 persons were sent to study in the Benin Republic, fully sponsored by the church, including free accommodations and feeding.

The church also built about 27 free nursery, primary and secondary schools across Abia, Rivers, Lagos and Akwa Ibom.

A source further revealed that one of the schools out of the 27 free nursery, primary and secondary schools is a special free school for autism and people with Down syndrome.

The source disclosed that: "We have a total number of 27 free schools. Out of the 27, we have 26 free schools in Abia, Akwa-Ibom, Rivers, Lagos and one free school for children born with autism and Down syndrome. In Africa as a whole, there is no free school for autism and Down syndrome. OPM is the only church that built such a school. Apostle Chibuzor Chinyere didn't just build the school. He provided brand new buses that take the children to school and return them back home. He also employed special teachers who are teaching them. Presently, he has also acquired land in Umuahia to commence building a free school for autism and Down syndrome in Nigeria."

It was also revealed that the ministry has built about 18 free estates in Port Harcourt, Aluu community in Rivers state among others.

Obi Lauds Otti For Reconstructing Abandoned Road

By Blessing Anienwe

The presidential candidate of Labour Party (LP) Mr. Peter Obi for the 2023 presidential election has taken to his official X handle, formerly known as Twitter, to hail the governor of Abia State, Dr. Alex Otti, for commencing the construction of a road that has been abandoned for years.

Some part of the statement that Obi

released on the above subject read, "In continuation of his commitment to the infrastructural development of Abia State, the state governor, Dr. Alex Otti have flagged off a strategic 30.1 km of road, the Arochukwu-Ndi Okereke-Ozuabam road. This very road had been abandoned for about 40 years.

The former Anambra governor stated that "it is easy to imagine what has

become of the communities in the area over these years concerning their contributions to the economic growth of the state.

In Comparing the project he did while he was a governor and what his party member is doing in Abia, he said, "I could feel the impact of this road project on these communities, as it bears resemblance to the first road project that I flagged off as the

Governor of Anambra State in 2006, the Anaku-Omor-Igbakwu-Ifite Ogwari-Umueje-Omasi road, 39 km long.

He praised Otti, saying that "no road had earlier existed in these communities, and they were some of the major food-producing areas in the state." What Governor Otti is doing, for me, is what governance should be all about.

Obohia Ndoki Presents Chief Nduwuisi As Eze-Elect

By Chukwuemeka Egejuru, Okere Ugochinyere and Adindu Stephanie

Obohia Ndoki in Ukwa East L.G.A of Abia State, was agog recently as the community unanimously presented Chief Ugochukwu John Nduwuisi as the Eze Elect of the community.

In his remark at the Civic Hall in Obohia Ndoki, the Chairman, Obohia Ndoki Council of Mbichiriezis, Ernest E. Benson, disclosed that Chief Nduwuisi emerged the Eze-elect of their community after a thorough screening and an unanimous decision by the Obohia Council of Mbichiriezis. Benson who congratulated Chief Nduwuisi on his emergence, described the Obohia Ndoki Eze-elect as a man of integrity and impeccable character, hence, the decision to present him as their Eze-elect, pending ratification by the Abia state government.

He expressed hope that Gov. Alex Chioma Otti's administration would heed to the yearnings of Obohia Ndoki community to present him with a staff of office so that they can have a traditional ruler.

Contributing, the representative of Eziuche Women Organization Obohia Ndoki, Chief Stella Igbokwe, stated that Chief Nduwuisi is renowned as a man of peace and notable character.

The former Chairman, Ukwa-East LGA, further described Chief Nduwuisi as a diligent Community leader, who has used his resources to help the women, youths and the downtrodden in the community, adding that he is committed to the course of the Obohia-Ndoki people.

Meanwhile, the Councilor representing Obohia in Ukwa-East Legislative Council, Hon. Chikodi Ebisike and the Youth President of Obohia Ndoki, Comrade Chinenye Ukaegbu,

maintained that Chief Ugochukwu John Nduwuisi has been an inspiration to the younger generation, hence, the



Eze elect, Obohia Ndoki Community, Chief Ugochukwu John Nduwuisi during his coronation.

unalloyed endorsement of the businessman as Eze-elect of their community.

They promised to support the Eze-elect in his vision to better the lots of Obohia-Ndoki when given the staff of office by the state government.

Interacting with newsmen shortly after his presentation, the Eze-elect, Chief Ugochukwu John Nduwuisi, thanked the Obohia Council of Mbichiriezis and the entire community for finding him worthy for the Royal office, adding that he would not take the trust reposed in him for granted.

Chief Nduwuisi who also promised to provide royal leadership of unity, love and enthrone prosperity through collaborative efforts, decried that Obohia-Ndoki lacked basic amenities, insisting that it has

affected their people negatively.

He further revealed that the community is blessed with palm fruits, cassava and other economic crops/trees but lacked the processing facilities to add value to them.

Chief Nduwuisi who promised to attract investors to Obohia-Ndoki for sustainable development, also expressed hope that the present Abia State Government, led by Gov. Alex Otti would properly address the problems in the rural populace, especially in Ukwa-East LGA and reposition the state to an enviable height among comity of states in Nigeria.

Obohia has been without a traditional ruler as their former Monarch, HRH. Eze Hyacinth Okere Dike (Iloko III) who was coronated on the 26th day of March, 2005, died on the 11th of January 2021 and was buried on 29th of May 2021.

Dignitaries and groups that graced the event were: former member that represented Ukwa-East Federal House of Representatives, National Assembly Abuja, Rt. Hon. Emeka Stanley, Special Advisor to Deputy Speaker, Federal House of Representatives, Chief William Nwanguma, HRH. Eze F.N. Okere, HRH. Eze Dagbo, High Chief Ibe Okere, High Chief. Evans Ekeke The Leader, Ukwa East Local Government Council, the Okonko group, former Leader, Ukwa East Legislative Council, Rt. Hon. Emeka Amamah, the leadership of Obohia Traditional Council, Eziuche Woman Organisation Obohia, Obohia Youth and her Leadership, Umuwulu Woman Organisation, Okoroaja Woman Organisation, Ogele Mkpa Cultural Group, Ejieslem Cultural Group, Eziuche Obohia Association, Transport unions, Afo Market Association, representatives from every community in Ukwa East, among others.

News

Otti Calls For Settlement Of NDDC Contractors • To Revive Abandoned Projects

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, has underscored the need for the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs to address outstanding debts owed contractors handling various projects of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in the state, with the aim of revitalizing abandoned ones.

Governor Otti stated this, when he received a delegation led by the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Engr. Abubakar Momoh and his team who were in Abia state to inspect projects executed by the NDDC.

The Governor further stressed the need for the Ministry to conduct thorough monitoring and supervision of NDDC projects within the state to ensure quality standards are maintained.

The Governor attributed the primary reason for abandoned road projects initiated by the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to outstanding debts owed contractors and urged the Minister to



Gov. Alex Otti (right) receiving the minister of niger delta Affairs Engr. Abubakar Momoh and his team

assist in resolving the payment issues.

"Abia State is a major beneficiary of abandoned NDDC projects and there is one just around here that goes all the way to the express. The reason for abandonment was that they were being owed, since 2018.

"I am sure that the details can be provided for you to get them to come back to work.

"There are others around Umuahia,

around Aba and if we can get them to come back to work I would really appreciate it, but the major issue is about payment.

"Sometimes in the past, it was like a Herculean task to get paid when handling NDDC project, so if you can look into it, you can get alot of the projects that were abandoned back to life", Otti said.

Governor Otti who emphasized the

importance of both the Niger Delta Ministry and the NDDC in serving the people, acknowledged their positive impact of infrastructure development in the region.

The Governor while appreciating the Minister for visiting Abia for the road inspection tour, expressed willingness to collaborate with the Ministry to improve the welfare of the people and enhance socio-economic development in the region.

"Any government that does not pay attention to the welfare of the people, that government is a failure, so I am happy that you are paying attention to the welfare of the people. We will give you every support that you require", Gov Otti assured.

Earlier in his speech, the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs Engr Abubakar Momoh, while noting that they were in the state to inspect projects embarked upon in the state by the Ministry of the Niger Delta Affairs and the NDDC,

expressed readiness to collaborate with Governors in the Region to achieve meaningful development.

Momoh emphasized that the Ministry prioritises partnership over competition to enable them serve the people better and promote sustainable growth in the region.

He commended Governor Otti for his giant strides in Infrastructure Development and enhanced Security in the state and urged the Governor to continue to maintain peace in the state, as it would play a pivotal role in guaranteeing the prosperity of state and Nigeria in general.

Some members of the entourage included the Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Niger Delta Affairs, Hon. Okehukwu, his Project Monitoring counterpart, Hon. Obi Aguocha, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, Dr. Shuaib Belgore among others.

Abia Gov. Mourns Tragic Loss Of Three ABSU Medical Students In Fatal Crash

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, has expressed deep sadness over the tragic death of three medical students of the Abia State University, Uturu.

Recall that the students died after a ghastly road accident that occurred on the Enugu-Port Harcourt Expressway, while traveling back to their destinations from the campus at Uturu after the induction of their senior colleagues, who had just graduated from the university. Two others, who were traveling in the same salon car thankfully survived.

Governor Otti in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Kazie Ukoh, regretted that the State lost the three young medical students at a time government was making serious progress at revamping both the education

and health sectors of the state's economy, which had been in critical state of dilapidation and neglect before he assumed office nine months ago.

"I am indeed saddened by the death of these young prospective medical doctors, who, I'm told, were returning from the university's graduation ceremony. We were all looking forward to them graduating from school and joining their professional colleagues to help us uplift the standard and quality of medical practice in the state.

"This is particularly painful to me because the graduation ceremony they attended was the first since accreditation for the training of doctors was restored to the College of Medicine Abia State University and the Abia State University Teaching Hospital, Aba, by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria,

after over two years of suspension under the previous government in the state.

"I have already despatched two senior members of the Abia State Government to convey our commiserations and offer of support in this moment of grief to the parents and guardians of the five students involved in the accident, including the two, who survived.

"I would like to further use this medium to express my heartfelt condolences to the families, loved ones and colleagues of the deceased students, over this tragedy and painful loss.

"I also sympathise with the authorities of the Abia State University, Uturu, and pray that the Almighty God will comfort all and heal the pain of this sad incident," the Governor said.

Community Policing Is Best To Tackle Insecurity, Communal Clashes - Chukwuma

By Nzeuzor Jane & Bestman Orji PH

A security expert Mike Chukwuma is advocating for community policing to tackle conflict between communities and security agencies. Dr. Chukwuma a retired assistant commissioner of police said this in an interview while reacting to the killings of soldiers in Okuama Community in Delta State. He emphasized the prevalence distrust of law enforcement agencies in handling internal security matters.

Dr Chukwuma further said that he is a strong advocate of community-based policing system. Stressing that security is not all about physical interaction, rather, in security management, the issue of trust must be built in. He frown at the fact that Nigeria had admit to a situation where we rely on federal policing. Stating

that we ought to by today be talking mostly on internal security, based on community policing where almost all the officers are contained in all the Local Government Areas so that they are close to their people, and they know their people, and there would be trust and mutual understanding amongst them as they speak the same language.

He further explained that community policing is essential to reducing crime and criminalities, especially kidnapping and other vices, stating that community policing is a key to an enhanced security and socioeconomic development in Nigeria. He said while you may be conscious of protecting and securing your own home and family, what about your neighbourhood? Adding that helping to keep your local

neighbourhood safe is essential in maintaining community spirit. He therefore urge the Rivers State governor to join the other 16 governors to endorse state policing.

An elder states man in Rumurlumini community, Bright Baridan in an interview with our reporters said instead, let the police train and select those who pass their test, and hence they are to be attached to their local police headquarters. Adding that community policing function should be to complement the the efforts of our regular police force as they know every bush or hidden places in their individual communities and with this we can fight insecurity in Nigeria and be successful.

International NGO "Read to Learn" Donates Library to Ukwa Community

An International NGO "Read to Learn" has donated an ultra-modern library to Ogwe community in Ukwa West Local Government Area of Abia State. Speaking during the commissioning ceremony which took place at Ogwe Central School on 15th March 2022, the founder of the UK based NGO "Read to Learn", said its objective is to encourage a reading culture in our young people. She also said her NGO is partnering with a UK based organization called Book



Aid in the donation of books and other materials for the various libraries they are

developing. Dr. Ngozi Ememe said they were motivated to establish the Library at Ogwe in other to inculcate the culture of reading and learning amongst the young people in the Niger Delta Region.

The activities that characterized the commissioning ceremony included the display of books and toys for kids and various other displays by teachers and pupils of Ogwe Central School where the library is located.



Dr Ngozi EMEME presenting a copy of the book to the representative of Mayor Newman Azu (the Mayor for Ukwa West LGA)



The books and some teddy bears for the kids on display



The pupils of Ogwe Central School and the headmistress of the school Mrs. Favour Uzoma responding



Ibe Ememe representing the mayor making a speech

TIPS ON HOW TO ENHANCE YOUR FEMININITY

Fashion tips
with
Sandra Chibuike
08038311355

It is not just enough to know that you are a female, you need to deliberately appreciate your unique qualities. I am talking about the things that differentiate you from the male gender. The scripture says you are fearfully and wonderfully made, so that means everything about you was well planned and thought out. That includes your beauty, character traits and inner self.

One of the ways to appreciate this unique nature is by doing things that will enhance your femininity. Here are some tips on how to do that.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR HAIR:

Hair is like a friend for your face, it is much more than just strands. It reflects your personality and style. Every time you lovingly care for your hair, you are expressing self-love. Keeping your hair clean and well maintained is not just an act of hygiene, it also shows your attention to detail.

You may choose to elevate your hair by wearing hair extensions. Some of the hair extensions can be styled to suit your face and most importantly your fashion at the moment. By all means, do not leave your hair unkempt. Remember the way you take care of your hair, influences how you feel about yourself, boosts your self-confidence and femininity.



WEAR PERFUME:

Being scented is not just a personal benefit, it is a gift you share with those around you. When you pass by someone and leave a gentle trail of fragrance, you are providing a special sensory moment, evoking the tenderness and femininity you radiate. Your choice of perfume is as personal as you are. It is a form of silent communication, an expression of your personality and style. Apart from enhancing your femininity, being scented is a constant reminder of the love and care you dedicate to yourself.



WEAR MAKEUP:

Makeup does not hide who you are, rather it highlights your beauty and accentuates what makes you unique. Choose colors that suit your skin type. There are some cosmetics that can be applied regularly to improve on your looks without breaking a bank, like face powder, eye pencil and lipstick. These are the very basics and are affordable. But when you are dressing for the big occasions, you can do a total makeover which entails using more cosmetics. In all, decent and neat makeup makes you more adorable.

GO FOR DRESSES AND SKIRTS:

Embracing your feminine nature entails wearing more of dresses and skirts. They bring out your uniqueness and highlight your body shape. Nicely styled dresses whether long or short, have a way of accentuating your femininity. This does not mean that trousers are not good, but since the emphasis is on enhancing your femininity, dresses and skirts will always elevate your feminine nature.



PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO YOUR NAILS:

This reflects your personality. Maintaining an appropriate length and good hygiene are signs of respect for yourself and others. Additionally, applying a decent nail polish is like painting a Candice that expresses your personality. Soft colors and classic tones highlight your elegance. Even if you choose not to use a nail polish, keeping your nails moisturized and using a protective base -coat certainly enhances the beauty of your nails. Remember taking care of your nails is a way to express your attention to details and your commitment to self-appreciation.



CHOOSE HANDBAGS OVER BAGPACKS:

Using handbags can enhance your femininity in an enchanting way. Handbags are true extension of your style and personality. It is not necessary to invest in expensive items. Using the right bags for each occasion speaks volume of your style. Whether it is a beautiful clutch bag for the special event or the cross-body bag for everyday use, each elevates your femininity.



CHOOSE DELICATE ACCESSORIES:

A beautiful set of delicate accessories, like earrings, necklace and bracelet have the ability to transform your outfit in a subtle and enchanting way. The secret lies in using the right match for your outfit per time. The best part is that you can combine them with any style, whether casual or formal creating a perfect balance between simplicity and sophistication. When you adorn yourself with jewelries it helps to highlight your femininity.



CHOOSE CLOTHES THAT FIT WELL TO YOUR BODY:

One of the things that evaluates your image is fashion. It speaks volumes of your personality. Avoid clothes that are too big on your body, as they conceal the delicacy of your femininity. On the other hand, undersized clothings make you look cheap. Avoid wearing dark shades all the time. they hide your beauty and gives off an air of seriousness around you. While bright shades create positive energy around you and boosts your confidence.

Features

The States And The Blackout Nation

By Dakuku Peterside

Many Nigerians believe that restructuring the country or devolving powers from the centre to the sub-nationals is the silver bullet that will solve all our problems. This belief has sustained the debate for or against restructuring for decades. As fanciful as this claim is, I disagree with this position because bad leadership is a more significant challenge than the superstructure of the country. Although the way Nigeria is structured does not make for optimal productivity and needs some form of amendment or tinkering, we need thoughtful and honest leadership to make progress. This kind of leadership is required at the central and sub-national levels.

One area in which sub-nationals or states of the federation would take advantage of to show that a restructured Nigeria can be an oasis of development is electricity generation, transmission, and distribution. This is because of the multiplier effect of electricity on quality of life, productivity, employment generation, and human development. The recent epidemic of blackouts that has enveloped the nation due to the collapse of the national grid and frequent power outages have challenged the proposition that if power is devolved to the sub-nationals or states, most, if not all, of our problems would be solved. It has also brought to the fore the need for state governments to step up their game. A quick review of how a change in the 1999 constitutional provision and a new electricity act has necessitated a change in the role of state governments in electric power sufficiency is essential for clarity.

Electricity has always been on the concurrent legislative list. It was so under the 1963 and 1979 constitutions. However, the 1999 provisions on the concurrent federal and state legislative powers over electricity were drafted in a way that made it impossible for states to make laws to establish their electricity markets and play a pivotal role in addressing power shortages that have literally crippled our economic growth. Eventually, in 2023, the National and State assemblies came together to amend the 1999 constitution and remove the constraints that challenged enacting state



laws on electricity. This was followed up by enacting a new Electricity Act, 2023, which allowed states to regulate electricity generation, transmission, and distribution businesses within their territories. The act created two electricity markets, the national and state markets. The National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) from Abuja will regulate the national electricity market, while the states are expected to implement electricity market policies, legal frameworks, and institutions to regulate their respective state electricity markets.

One takeaway from the current state of the anaemic electricity supply nationwide is that states cannot continue to wait for the federal government alone to resolve the challenge. The states now have the full constitutional authority to create the frameworks for the adequate electricity supply to their citizens. They now have the power to create the right environment to attract investment into this new electricity market and ultimately raise the national power-generating capacity from the embarrassing levels at which it is currently. The current situation where the country generates less than 4,000 MW of electricity for 220 million people, but the same people own and operate over 50,000 MW of self-generation or generator capacity, makes us appear unserious. Despite this 50,000mw self-generation, we still have epileptic power

nationally, producing sub-optimally and far less than our potential. The epidemic of blackouts that has enveloped the nation in the past few weeks has challenged the proposition that if power is devolved to the sub-nationals or states, most, if not all, our problems would be solved. I will share my thoughts on why most state governments are not taking advantage of the new Electricity Act and should double their effort to get us out of this perennial descent into a permanent state of darkness. This is against the background of the abundance of gas in south-south and southeast states, massive potential for hydro in Southwest states and solar generation in the northern states. The significant reasons states fail to tackle the electricity problem and unleash economic growth in their states are fourfold: first, a lack of understanding of the need for political will to fix the power problem from a state perspective. State governors

prefer short-term infrastructure projects that give them political mileage and are transactional. The myth that electricity is the centre's problem has shaped state leaders' thinking for too long. The second is the lack of qualified and competent human resources to drive policy and serve as regulators. Even the national regulator, NERC, had this problem in 2006 when they started, which is still so today. The third is the problem of implementation and enforcement of policies, laws, and agreements in the long term. Most investors have had to contend with violations of the sanctity of contracts and policy inconsistencies at the state and federal levels. The fourth reason is that states need more investment in technology and network infrastructure for electrification projects and for the ecosystem to become attractive to potential

investors. Despite these challenges, there is some silver linings in this dark cloud. Recently, I had a long engagement with the governor of Enugu state around power. Enugu state has taken the bull by the horns and has not only enacted its state policy and law but has already set up its regulatory body comprising experienced hands who have experience working in NERC, discos, or industry consulting firms. The Enugu Electricity Regulatory Commission is now on the verge of issuing its first licenses to private investors. There is no doubt that Enugu is on the path to energy self-sufficiency, which will, in turn, unleash her economic growth potential. States like Lagos, Oyo and Ogun, Kaduna, Kano, Anambra, Abia, Rivers, Taraba, and Plateau, where there is a significant advantage in terms of availability of commercial/industrial markets and availability of fuel sources such as natural gas, hydro and solar have no reason to be slow about following in Enugu state's footsteps.

The inference from the preceding is that both political devolution and electricity devolution require political will and an enabling economic environment. An economically unviable state will remain a nightmare as it cannot demand or pay for electricity. Industrial and commercial markets for power are a prerequisite for investment in the power

sector. Investors will only come if the electricity market exists. In this regard, only 30% of our states can attract investors to the power sector. Nigeria has long struggled with electricity supply issues, leading to frequent blackouts nationwide. Several factors contribute to the current blackouts and power outages, the most reoccurring narratives being grid disruptions, failing distribution infrastructure and, topmost, short supply of gas due to debt and other commercial reasons.

Therefore, the federal government still has a crucial role in the power sector to drive social and economic development on a national scale. It must create the right ecosystem to spur investment in electricity infrastructure, including building new power plants, upgrading existing ones, and expanding the transmission and distribution networks. This requires both public and private sector involvement, as well as partnerships with international organizations and investors. It must champion the diversification of energy sources, especially renewable energy, such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power, which provide a more sustainable and reliable electricity supply.

The current state of the anaemic electricity supply in Nigeria, as experienced in the blackouts of the past few weeks, calls for a new approach. Nigeria's blackout problem is not just a technical issue but a combination of human capacity challenges and systemic inefficiencies requiring urgent and comprehensive solutions. The flickering lights of Nigeria are a stark reminder of the urgent need for visionary leadership at the federal and state levels in the energy sector. We must never forget that blackouts are not just inconvenient interruptions; they're crippling barriers to progress and development.

The current national blackout should be a wake-up call for states of the federation to wake up from their complacency and speed up the process of playing a pivotal role in energy sufficiency. State governments must avail themselves of the incredible opportunity the new Electricity Act provided them and at least provide the building blocks to electricity sufficiency and efficiency in the states.

The epidemic of blackouts that has enveloped the nation in the past few weeks has challenged the proposition that if power is devolved to the sub-nationals or states, most, if not all, our problems would be solved.

Foreign

Dani Alves Allowed To Leave Spanish Jail After Paying €1m Bail

The former Brazil international footballer Dani Alves, convicted of rape in Spain, has paid his bail of €1m and can leave jail pending his appeal, a court has said.

One of the world's most decorated footballers, Alves, 40, was sentenced last month to four and a half years in jail for raping a young woman in the VIP bathroom of a Barcelona nightclub in the early hours of 31 December 2022.

In a surprise move, a Barcelona court agreed to his request for a provisional release while his appeal is heard, on the condition that he posted bail of €1m, hand over his Spanish and Brazilian passports, remain in the country and present himself to court on a



weekly basis.

He remained in jail while his entourage raised the money. "We hereby inform you that the deposit of Daniel Alves's bail has been registered in the accounts of the 21st section of the Barcelona court," the court said in a statement.

TV crews gathered outside the Brians 2 prison, north-west of Barcelona,

where Alves is being held, to capture the moment of his release, which is expected in the coming hours.

Alves has been in jail since he was arrested in January 2023. He made several attempts before his conviction to get bail,

but they were turned down partly on the basis that he was a flight risk since Brazil does not extradite citizens sentenced in other countries.

The appeal process could take months to complete. Public prosecutors and the victim's lawyer, Ester Garcia, have appealed against the decision to grant Alves bail.

Singapore's Ex-transport Minister Hit With 8 New Charges In Corruption Case.

Singapore's former Transport Minister S Iswaran has been slapped with eight new charges in a rare corruption case involving the city-state's ruling People's Action Party (PAP).

The charges relate to allegations that Iswaran obtained valuable goods worth about 18,956 Singapore dollars (\$14,077) from an individual who had business dealings with the Transport Ministry, the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) stated.

Singapore adopts a strict zero-tolerance approach towards corruption," the CPIB said.

"Any person who is convicted under section 165 of the Penal Code can be fined or sentenced to imprisonment of up to two years or both."

The alleged gifts received by Iswaran include whisky, golf clubs and a Brompton bicycle, local media reported.

The charges come after Iswaran was in January charged with 27 corruption offences, most of them related to his alleged receipt of gifts from Malaysian billionaire



Ong Beng Seng.

Ong, who played a key role in bringing the Singapore Grand Prix to the city-state in 2008 while Iswaran was in government, is alleged to have given the former minister tickets to West End shows and football matches in exchange for advancing his business interests.

Iswaran, who stepped down as an MP and resigned from the PAP, denied the charges at the time and promised to clear his name.

Corruption scandals are rare in Singapore, which is known for its

strict laws and tough enforcement. Singapore was ranked the fifth-least corrupt country in the 2023 Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index, following Norway, New Zealand, Finland and Denmark.

The case involving Iswaran is the first corruption probe concerning a minister since 1986, when then Minister for National Development Teh Cheang Wan was accused of accepting bribes from businesses.

Teh died before charges were brought against him

Senegal Election Result: Bassirou Diomaye Faye To Become Africa's Youngest Elected President.



Bassirou Diomaye Faye's extraordinary rise caps a rollercoaster period in Senegalese politics that caught many off-guard.

Months in jail alongside ally and kingmaker Ousmane Sonko ended suddenly, with the pair released the week before the presidential election.

Now Mr Clean, as he's nicknamed, must get to work on the sweeping reforms he has promised. "Methodical" and "modest" are words often used to describe the tax collector, who celebrates his 44th birthday.

Mr Faye fondly recalls his rural upbringing in Ndiaganiao, where he says he returns every Sunday to work the land.

His love and respect for village life is matched by his deep distrust of Senegal's elites and establishment politics. "He's never been a minister

and wasn't a statesman so critics question his lack of experience," analyst Alioune Tine tells the BBC.

"But, from Faye's point of view, the insiders who've run the country since 1960 have made some catastrophic failures."

Fighting poverty, injustice and corruption are top of Mr Faye's agenda. While working at the Treasury, he and Mr Sonko created a union taskforce to tackle graft. Gas, oil, fishing and defence deals must all be renegotiated to better serve the Senegalese people, says Mr Faye.

He is ushering in an era of "sovereignty" and "rupture" as opposed to more of the same, he told voters, and that is especially true of ties to France.

Senegal's president-elect says he will drop the much-criticised CFA franc currency, which is pegged to the euro and backed by former colonial power France. Mr Faye wants to replace it

with a new Senegalese, or regional West African, currency, although this will not be easy.

"He will have to deal with the reality of the budget to begin with... But I see that he has a lot of ambition," former Prime Minister Aminata Touré, who served under outgoing President Macky Sall, tells the BBC.

Strengthening judicial independence and creating jobs for Senegal's large young population are also key priorities for Mr Faye - neither of which "President Sall paid much attention to and it caught up with him", Ms Touré adds.

She is not the only political heavyweight to have thrown her support behind the 44-year-old - former President Abdoulaye Wade did the same just two days before Sunday's vote.

It is a remarkable turnaround for Mr Faye who spent the last 11 months in prison on charges of insurrection, and many more years before

that in his ally's shadow.

Bassirou is me'

Bassirou Diomaye Faye was announced in February as the so-called "Plan B" candidate, replacing the charismatic opposition firebrand Ousmane Sonko. "I would even say that he has more integrity than me," Mr Sonko said proudly.

Both men founded the now-disbanded Pastef party, both men are tax collectors, and both men found themselves jailed last year on charges they said were politically motivated.

Mr Sonko ended up being convicted of two offences, which meant he was barred from the election, so Mr Faye stepped in.

"Bassirou is me," Mr Sonko told supporters recently. "They are two sides of the same coin," Pastef colleague Moustapha Sarré agrees.

This has led to criticism that Mr Faye is merely "president by default".

Not so, says analyst Mr Tine. But the pair's relationship could usher in a new style of leadership.

"Maybe they will establish a tandem and break away from the hyper-presidential model of having an all-powerful head of state.

"Sonko is of course the uncontested leader of Pastef - an icon, even... [But] the two have had a [dynamic of] complicity and collusion."

Once upon a time, Mr Faye wanted nothing to do with politics. "It never crossed my mind," he said in 2019 while recalling his childhood.

One of Mr Faye's heroes is the late Senegalese historian Cheikh Anta Diop - whose work is seen as a precursor to Afrocentrism. Both are seen as left-wing cheerleaders for pan-Africanism.

As early results came in on Monday showing Mr Faye was set for victory, people in the capital, Dakar, celebrated by honking car horns and singing to loud music.

The reaction from international markets was less jubilant, with Senegal's dollar bonds falling to their lowest level in five months. Reuters news agency reports that investors are concerned Mr Faye's presidency may wind

down the country's business-friendly policies.

"By electing me, the Senegalese people have chosen to break with the past," he told journalists later on Monday. "I promise to govern with humility and transparency."

The election was originally due last month but Mr Sall postponed it just hours before campaigning was set to begin, triggering deadly opposition protests and a democratic crisis.

Most candidates had very little time to prepare once the new election date was set - but Mr Faye had just over a week after being freed from jail.

Despite the shortened campaign period, Senegal's citizens were adamant they would turn out and use their vote, Christopher Fomunyoh - of the National Democratic Institute for international affairs - told BBC Newsday.

"Senegal is in the process of confirming that democracies can self-correct and come out stronger and more resilient." And the true test for Senegal's clean-up guy has only just begun.

Source: CNN

SPORTING

AMBASSADOR

With Jacob Joseph



Abia To Become Major Hub For Global Sports Talent-Gov Otti

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

Governor Alex Otti of Abia state has reiterated the commitment of his administration to sports development and to transform Abia into a major hub for global sports talent through comprehensive grassroots initiatives aimed at building world-class sporting infrastructure and nurturing young talents across the state. Governor Otti stated this during the kickoff of the maiden edition of the Abia state Governor's secondary school Unity Games at the Umuahia Township Stadium. The event, which brought together talented young athletes who are champions in their respective Local

their participation in shaping the future of sports development in the state. He unveiled plans by the present administration to establish sports excellence colleges, revival of inter-school competitions, and the integration of sports into the state's economic development agenda. "What we have started with this game is a signal to what we want to do for the entire Sports ecosystem in the state", the governor stated, "We have recently developed a comprehensive programme of grassroots sports development that would involve the development of sport infrastructure, training and exposure of talented sports athletes

a structured programme of comprehensive development. "I aim at not just shaping participants into excellent sportsmen but building whole individuals equipped with all it takes to succeed in the field of play and the larger arena. "We envision Abia as a major hub for global sports talent. Through strategic investments and partnerships, we aim to propel our athletes to compete on the international stage, while creating economic opportunities for all stakeholders", he remarked. The Governor called on public-spirited individuals, development partners, and businesses to join hands with the state government in advancing the state's sports agenda and to harness the economic and social potential of sports. He congratulated the competitors in the games for making it to the state level, and urged them to see the tournament as an opportunity to learn team work, leadership and resilience. Earlier, the Commissioner for Sports and Youth Development, Mr. Nwaobilor Ananaba, commended the government for its efforts towards improving sports development in the state. Ananaba said: "The government is intentional about sports and a roadmap has been designed in line with the governor's campaign promises to strengthen rural sports development". The event, which was attended by various dignitaries including the Chairman, Enyimba Football Club, Mr Kanu Nwankwo and representative of the Minister of Sports, also featured match past by schools from the 17 LGAs of the state and the inspection of sports equipments by Governor Otti.



Government Areas across the 17 LGAs will compete for laurels in 24 sports which include football, basketball, badminton and athletics. In his address titled; "To Learn, Lead And Win", emphasized the significance of the tournament as a platform for nurturing future champions, potential Olympic medalists and record-breakers, underscoring the importance of

to life changing opportunities and platforms. "We are already in talks with local and foreign partners to commence the pilot phase of the programme which would see us build model sports centers in communities and urban neighborhoods, where kids and teenagers with talents and interest in pursuing careers in sports would be taught the ropes by accompanied professionals through

Glory House Wins KHMS 10th Annual Inter-House Sports

By Okere Ugochinyere and Stephanie Adindu

Glory House has won the 10th edition of Kingdom Heritage Model School, held at Umuahia township stadium.

Glory House won the highest number of medals, closely followed by Honour House that came second, while Blessing and Power houses came third and fourth respectively.

In the match pass competition, Power House won the first position, followed by Honour House while Blessing House and Glory House came third and fourth respectively.

Among other events, watched by parents, pupils and invited guests at the competition were: 200m, 100m, 75m, 50m, as well as relay races. There were other competitions like filling the bottle with foam/cup, filling the basket, sack race and skipping race, thread and needle race, bursting the balloon, finding the missing coin among others.

In his remark, the State Pastor, Living Faith Church, Abia state, Pastor Chris Osiberu underscored the importance of exercise to learners, adding that it gives them balance and stability.



In his words: "We don't only empower our children with Contributing, the Chairman, Parents Teachers Forum (PTF), KHMS Umuahia, Dr. Uchenna Martins Kalu, thanked all the staff for committing their time and talent to prepare the learners for the competition.

Dr. Kalu also commended the learners for being creative and their crave for sports, adding that these have contributed to raising the overall standard of the school's sports competition and building stamina, endurance, perseverance, among others in their children.

He emphasized that Inter-House Sports inspires determination and are vital to children's development.

Presenting the trophy to Glory House which emerged as the overall winner of the 10th annual Inter-House Sports, the State Pastor, Living Faith Church, Pst. Osiberu, congratulated them for showing resilience, adding that everybody who participated in the event won in one way or the other.

He promised a better outing next year.



Clash of the Titans:

Manchester City, Arsenal battle for glory Brothers fight as Napoli host Atalanta
Bayern confront Dortmund in German Classico

By Joseph Jacob



Erling Haaland

Hostilities return in leagues across the world after the international break, with breath-taking fixtures across Europe.

In England it will be a do-or-die, swim-or-sink, and cruise-or-crash affair when title-contenders, Arsenal storm the Etihad Stadium to take on defending champions, Manchester City in one of the week 30 matches of the English Premier League.

When they met in the reverse fixture, Gabriel Martinelli scored the only goal, four minutes from full time to give the gunners all three points. That was Arsenal first win in their last five meetings in the league. That win, as well as their Community Shield victory have given Arsenal the believe that they can gun down the defending champions at the Etihad Stadium.

Last season Arsenal allowed Manchester City to snatch the title from them despite leading the table in most part of the season. It was a costly mistake, a mistake that Arteta and his boys will not want to repeat and will definitely want to revenge.

In other fixtures, Newcastle United will host West Ham United as Bournemouth welcome Everton to the Vitality Stadium.

Chelsea will confront Burnley at the Stamford Bridge while Nottingham Forests lurk horns with Crystal Palace.

Bottom placed Sheffield United will take on Alex Iwobi's Fulham as Tottenham Hotspurs take on Luton Town.

Villa Park will come alive when Aston Villa host Wolves while the Bees, Brentford will attempt to sting Manchester United.

Title contender, Liverpool will have the chance to reclaim the top spot, at least temporarily, when they take on Brighton.

In the Italian Serie A, two brothers from Nigeria, Victor Osimhen and Ademola Lookman will be at each other's throat when Napoli host Atalanta.

Both played at the AFCON for Nigeria, while Lookman scored three goals, Osimhen scored one as Nigeria reached

the final for the first time in 10 years.

So far this season, the African Footballer of the Year, Osimhen has scored 11 goals in 17 league appearances for Napoli and they are placed 7th on the league table while Lookman's Atalanta are 6th on the log and the Nigerian has scored eight goals in 22 league matches for his club.

It will be a big clash as both clubs are pushing for European spot.

In other fixtures in the Italian League this weekend, Genoa will host Frosinone while Torino will tread tackles with Monza.

Lazio will confront Juventus as Fiorentina lurk horns with

AC Milan.

On Monday, Bologna will host Salernitana as Cagliari lurk horns with Hellas Verona.

Sassuolo will host Udinese as Lecce confront Roma. Leaders Inter Milan will take on Empoli.

The German Bundesliga star, atch of the weekend will take place at the Allianz Arena between the two biggest club in Germany: Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund.

In the reverse fixture played on November 4, 2023, Bayern Munich crushed Dortmund 4-0 with Harry Kane scoring a hat-trick.

Matches between both sides are known as the German Classico because of the rivalry between both sides. This weekend's match will be tougher because both teams desperately needs the three points at stake as a plants years for sunshine because Bayer Leverkusen have stolen the show this season, leading the table with 70 points, 10 above second placed Bayern Munich and 20 points above fourth placed Borussia Dortmund. Surprisingly, both Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund have lost four matches respectively, Bayer Leverkusen are yet to taste defeat.

So both clubs are not just fighting to clinch the German league, which is, ofcourse, an uphill task as it stands now, they are embarrassed that Leverkusen are heads and shoulders above them this season; they will fight like a wounded lion.

In other fixtures, runaway leaders, Bayer Leverkusen will host Hoffenheim while Bayern Munchengladbach will lurk horns with Freiburg.

Frankfurt will confront Union Berlin as RB Leipzig battle Mainz.

Werder Bremen will welcome Wolfsburg while Augsburg and Koln will fight to finish.

Stuttgart and Heidenheim will go head to head as VFL Bochum take on Darmstadt.



Osimhen