

**Mothers Day:
Abia First Lady
Charges Women**

Pg. 2

**HOS Tasks Abia Civil
Servants To Upgrade
Themselves**

Pg. 4

**Gov. Otti Taking
Abia State From
Rot To Excellence**

Pg. 17

NATIONAL Ambassador

□200 VOL. 22 NO. 096 "Uplift the people, project the nation" Friday 3 May, 2024

nationalambassadorng.com nationalambassadorng.com nationalambassadorng.com NationalAmbassador NationalAmbassador report@nationalambassadorng.com www.nationalambassadorng.com

How Past Govt. Looted Abia treasury ...Spent 107.2B on Non-Existent Abia Airport, Other Projects -Gov.Otti

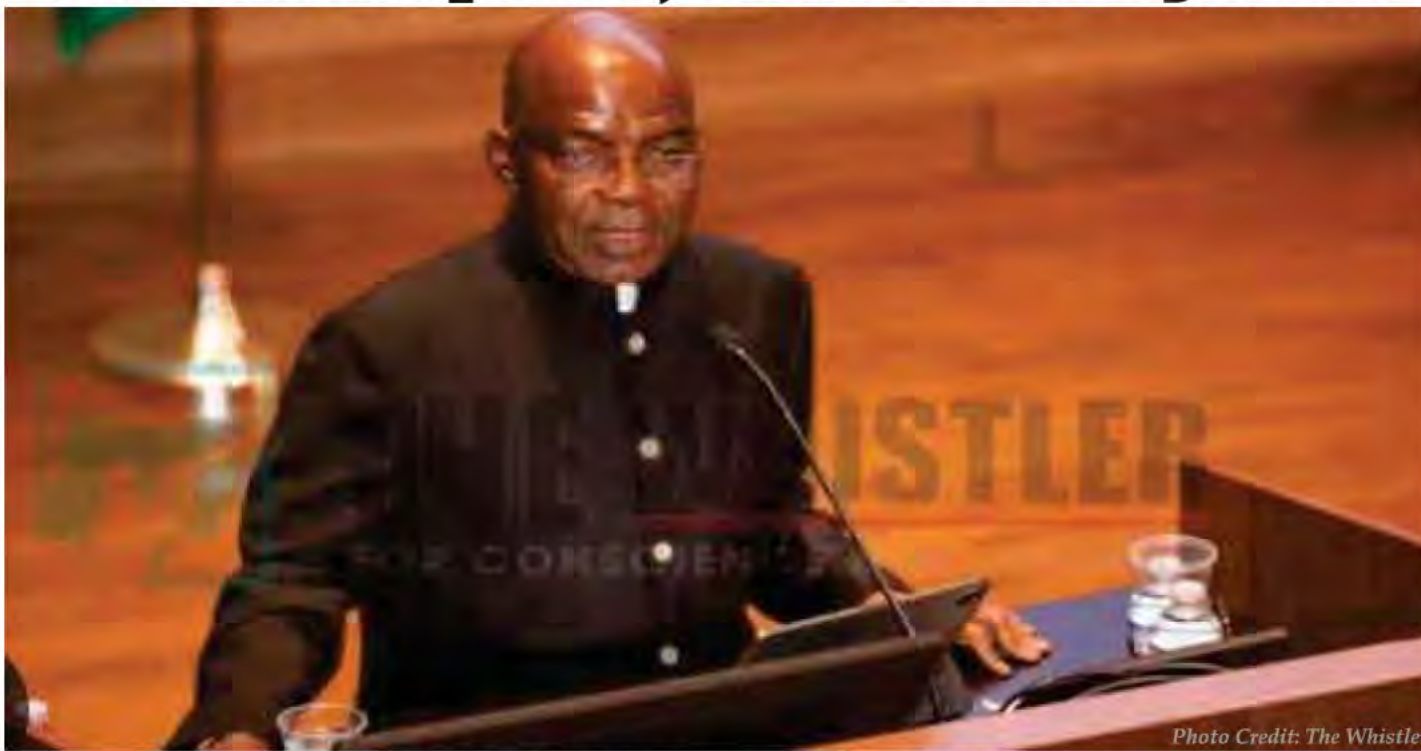


Photo Credit: The Whistler

The Gov. Dr. Alex Otti During his Lecture at John Hopkins University

A forensic audit and other projects. Studies, Washington DC, Order Amidst Multiple Constraints and Pushbacks.'
conducted by an The Abia State Governor, Dr United States.
Audit firm has Alex Otti made the revelation He spoke on the theme, Gov.Otti said it is difficult to
revealed how the immediate recently during a presentation 'Dynamics of State admit how some Nigerian
past government of Abia State at the John Hopkins Governance, Economic leaders contest elections for
approved funds to contractors University School of Transition and the Challenges reasons shrouded in
for the construction of non- Advanced International of Seeking to Establish a New corruption.
existent state-owned airport

Continue in Pg. 2

Abia Assembly Confirms Appointment Of ASUBEB Chairman, Other members

By Chukwuemeka Chijioko

Abia State House of Assembly has screened and confirmed the appointment of the Executive Chairman and members of the Abia State Universal Basic Education Board, ASUBEB. Those confirmed include Mrs Lydia Onuoha, Executive Chairman; Dr Uzoamaka Amah Mba , Secretary; Mrs Chioma Nwachi Nwogwugwu, Dr Onyebuchi Onyegbule and Chief Harrison Onyema Onuke as members. Speaking while announcing the confirmation of the nominees, the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Emmanuel Emeruwa charged them to discharge their duties diligently. He advised them to justify the confidence reposed in them by the appointment and confirmation, adding that any other issue relating to the constitution of the Board will be sorted out in due course. Earlier, the member representing Obingwa East State Constituency, Hon. Uchenna Erongdu, had complained to the House that out of the five members making up the Board,

Continued on Page 2



Speaker Abia State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon Emmanuel Emeruwa

Gov. Otu pledges to reposition Yala Council as food basket

By Julie Okorafor

The Governor of Cross River State, Senator Bassey Otu, has expressed interest in repositioning Yala Local Government Area of the state, as the food basket of the state. But in doing that, the governor

made it clear that it can only be possible if the people will maintain peace amongst themselves, having resolved the constant communal clashes in the area.

During a visit by the royal heads of the area to the governor in Calabar,

Otu charged and advised them to seek healthier communal relationships, create peaceful co-existence and maintain good neighborliness amongst the communities.

The Chief Press Secretary to

the Governor, Mr Gill Nsa, who made the meeting possible, said the Yala speaking people of the Yala local government area of the state came with their paramount ruler, Ogamode Clement Onah Ipuole,

Continued on Page 2

News

How Past Govt. Looted Abia treasury...Spent 107.2B on Non-Existent Abia Airport, Other Projects -Gov.Otti

Continued from Page 1

Dr. Alex Otti who took over from Okezie Ikpeazu in 2023 explained that some politicians have abused the privilege of governance thereby impoverishing their states.

He explained how he engaged one of the top audit firms in the world to examine the state accounts, adding that the auditor uncovered several deals that are shrouded in

corruption.

According to him, "Talking about corruption, I set up a forensic audit as soon as I took over last year in Abia so that there won't be any argument. I called in one of the top three audit firms in the world and not too long ago, they sent in their report and some of the things in the report are frightening".

Explaining the details of the fraud, Gov.Otti said

N79.3bn was paid to seven contractors for contracts that were not executed at all up till today. Another N15.9bn-almost N16bn was paid to 63 contractors with no supporting documents anywhere in the State. Another 12 Billion naira was paid to 2 contractors for contracts that do not exist. Out of this figure 10 billion naira was paid on 25th September 2020, that is

almost four years now to six contractors for the construction of Abia Airport".

Gov Otti said his administration has spent time searching for the Airport for which humongous amount of Abia treasury running into billions of naira was spent on but has not found any. In a humorous tone, Gov Otti noted that perhaps they

failed because they were using native intelligence instead of Artificial intelligence. On a more serious note, Gov Alex Otti informed the distinguished audience that such anomalies has compelled his government into enlisting the help of the relevant security agencies in locating the mythical Airport and such other projects

Abia Assembly Confirms Appointment of ASUBEB Chairman

Continued from Page 1

none of the nominees is from Abia South Senatorial District, a situation he described as politically unbalanced and abnormal. He urged the House to look into it before as well and draw the attention of the governor to it.

The House at plenary also

entertained a Matter of Urgent Public Importance brought before it by the member representing Osisioma North State Constituency, Hon. Iheanacho Nwogu, on the reckless driving by motorists and the incessant road accident along Aba-Owerri

Road, which had claimed the lives of two students of Abia State Polytechnic. Aba, and the need to relocate the institution or part of it to its permanent site in Osisioma, to decongest the area.

He prayed the House to visit the family of late Miss Ogechi Mary Ezekiel, a

student of the polytechnic, who was knocked down and died recently along the said road as well as , investigate the cause of the delay in moving the polytechnic to its permanent site. He pointed out that hoodlums have already started vandalizing the structures in the

permanent site. The House led by the Speaker, observed a minute silence in respect to the late Miss Ogechi Mary Ezekiel while directing its committee on education to look into the matter and report back to the House.

Gov. Otu Pledges To Reposition Yala Council As Food Basket

Continued from Page 1

to assure the governor of their support to his administration and to request for help in reinstating their area as the food hub of the state.

Some of their requests include good access of roads linking the various communities, good drinking water, upgrading the

local food market in Okuku to international standard, irrigation dam in Yala to boost food production, establishment of salt industry to explore the huge salt deposit in the area and to convert the University of Cross River State Campus in Okuku to full university.

The delegates expressed satisfaction at the governor's response and promised to return Okuku Market to an international standard, open roads for accessibility as a way of positioning agriculture as the main source of the state's economy.

The governor also promised to tackle other requests presented by

the Yala people as he hopes to use the agricultural potential of the area and convert it as urban and Commercial centre in the northern part of the state, while placing security and other structures that will always put in check the avoidable communal clashes and other disputes.

Mothers Day: Abia First Lady Charges Women

By Chibunna Ikeokwu

March-past, drama, dancing and cultural display were the renditions as the Catholic women faithfuls in Nigeria joined their counterparts globally to celebrate this year's Mother's Day with the theme "motherhood a call to perform sacred and supreme vocation".

Addressing the women at St. Tansi Catholic church Aba, Abia State, the wife of the governor, Mrs. Priscilla Otti advised mothers to take proper care of themselves, their husbands and the children.

"By doing so, you are fulfilling your sacred duties to God and at the same time playing active role in

nation building" she said.

Mrs. Otti further stated that the administration of Governor Alex Otti is not relenting in empowering women but also

not to live above their means in this period of economic challenges but rather support their husbands financially in providing for the family.

She emphasized her passion about women empowerment and her commitment towards giving Abia women the recognition and support they deserve.

According to her, "while we may not put many of our efforts on women empowerment in the media, be assured that there are numerous empowerment initiatives happening while more are underway, aimed at uplifting and empowering women across the state.

Mrs. Otti however, urged the Catholic Women's Organisation (CWO) to harness its collective

strength to empower women, particularly widows and those facing hardships.

She also appealed to women to



Abia First Lady Mrs. Priscilla Otti being welcome by St. Tansi catholic women during the catholic mothers day recently

committed towards lifting Abia women out of poverty.

In his sermon, the Parish Priest, Reverend Father Kelechi Anyanwu, admonished mothers

In a related development, Mrs. Otti also visited Mater Dei cathedral in Umuahia, where she lectured mothers to be a good role model for their children to emulate.

Change Of Name

I, formerly known and addressed as Onome Shirley Ivwrogbo, now wish to be known and addressed ONOME SHIRLEY OGAH IKWUE. All documents bearing my former names valid. The general public should please take note.

ONOME SHIRLEY OGAH IKWUE

I, formerly known and addressed as Angela Unyi Agaji, now wish to be known and addressed as ANGELA UNYI EZE. All documents bearing my former names remain valid. The general public should please take note.

ANGELA UNYI EZE

I formerly known, and addressed as Miss Kelechi Charity Ekeleme. Now wish to be known and addressed as Charity Shedrack. All documents bearing my former names remain valid. The general public should please take note.

MRS. KELECHI SHEDRACK

Correction Of Name

This is to affirm that Anyim Princely Okpo Friday which was wrongly written on my Bank Verification Number and my bank account with First Bank of Nigeria, UBA and FCMB Plc Polaris Bank, and MTN, and Anyim Friday Okpo is the same person. I now wish to be known and addressed as ANYIM PRINCELY OKPO FRIDAY. All documents bearing my former names remain valid. The general public should please take note.

ANYIM PRINCELY OKPO FRIDAY

report promptly instances of abuse or violence, adding that each life lost represents a generation destroyed.

In her remarks, the President, Catholic Women's Organisation Mater Dei Parish, Professor Roseta Eneje called for a redress on the way women are treated, adding that it is time nations and institutions acknowledge the sacred duties mothers play in nation building.

News

Abia COS charges ACCIMA to enhance Aba's Brand Image

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

The Chief of Staff to the Governor of Abia State, Pastor Caleb Ajagba has charged the Executive Members of the Abia Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (ACCIMA) to enhance Aba's brand image to the international world as they prepare for their 2024 International Trade Fair.

Pastor Ajagba who gave the charge when the ACCIMA team paid him a courtesy visit at Government House Umuahia, called on ACCIMA members to organize themselves effectively to capitalize on the economic opportunities emerging in Aba.

Ajagba who emphasized Governor Otti's commitment to fostering industry and development, highlighted the importance of sustaining infrastructural developments in the city, urging business leaders to think creatively.

He assured the ACCIMA team of the Government's full support, stating that, "His Excellency values ACCIMA and stands firmly behind you. He's ready to partner with you for the state's progress and achieve his vision for the state".

The COS further stressed the need for the ACCIMA team to align to the vision and

passion of the Governor and his commitment to building a new Abia that would be reckoned with globally, to restore and reclaim the lost glory of Aba as the Japan of Africa.

Ajagba, emphasized the need for products and services originating from Aba to be of top-notch quality, not only catering for the Nigerian market but also aiming to serve West



President of the ACCIMA, Mr Geoffrey Uzoagbara in a handshake with the Chief of staff to the Governor, Pastor Caleb Ajagba

Africa region and the global community.

"As business giants operating in Aba as ACCIMA, whatever you don't envision, don't happen. It is your responsibility to organize yourselves.

"So much is required of you, seize the economic opportunities coming to Aba. You must do everything possible to sustain this

infrastructure that is coming to Aba, you must also begin to think very creatively to make sure the products, services and whatever that is coming from Aba is a top-notch in terms of servicing not just Nigeria, but the West Africa and the entire human race", Ajagba stated.

He assured them that the governor is ready to partner with them to host the 2024 International Trade Fair coming up ending of this year.

In their various speeches, the Commissioner for Trade, Commerce and Industry Dr. Chimezie Ukaegbu and the Special Adviser to the Governor on Trade, Commerce and Industry Chief Nwaka Inem echoed the government's commitment to excellence.

They advised the ACCIMA team to consider professional consultants to create a truly impressive event for the international stage. Earlier in his address, the president of ACCIMA Mr. Geoffrey Uzoagbara expressed appreciation to Governor Otti for his positive initiatives which is already impacting businesses and the state's economy.

He requested that ACCIMA members be included in policy discussions affecting the local economy and private sector.

Also contributing, the Vice President Intergovernmental Relation, Hon. Joseph Ogwo and his counterpart in Oil and Gas, Engr. Nkene Eukeme reiterated their commitment to hosting a world-class trade fair and urged the government to establish a permanent trade fair venue in Aba.

TISL Assures Better Homes, Set To Establish Terra Garden City, Others In Abia

By Charles Ogbonnaya

The problems of looking for where to buy a land or a house by perspective land and house owners would soon become history, as Terra Integrated Services Limited, TISL has concluded plans to partner with Abia State Government in that area.

Other areas of interest according to the Chief Executive Officer of TISL, Hon. Chief Mrs Funmilayo Ireedi Oginni, who spoke with our correspondent in Umuahia, include: the establishment of Terra Instant noodles and spaghetti, food production factory and establishment of multipurpose livestock farm.

Mrs Oginni also disclosed plans to establish coconut oil production refinery plant in the state.

She appreciated Governor Alex Otti for creating an enabling environment, which is now attracting investors to the state unlike what was obtainable in the past.

"Abia State Government is doing well in the area of security, and I must commend Gov. Otti for that and also appreciate him for giving us an assurance of steady power supply", the Chief Executive Officer of TISL expressed delight.

Mrs. Otti, MWAN Partner To Eradicate Gender-based Violence

By Chibunna Ikeokwu

The wife of the Governor of Abia state, Mrs. Priscilla Otti, has assured members of the Medical Women Association of Nigeria (MWAN) of her support and partnership to improve the health and well-being of Abians.

Mrs. Otti gave the assurance when the members of the association paid her a courtesy visit in her Government House Office, Umuahia.

The Governor's wife noted that, there are many areas of synergy between the government and the association especially where it concerns the issue of gender based violence and abuse of the girl child.

Mrs. Otti also acknowledged the challenges of the association and promised to look into it adding that while she will endeavour to support them, the rest she will relay to the Governor whom she described as a health friendly governor to sort it out.

Earlier, the leader of the delegation, Dr. Chizoba Francisca Achor, stated the visions of the association to include, medical missions to the rural areas, creating awareness and sensitization to the public on healthy practices.

According to her, our mission is to serve humanity and use our talent in the medical field to impact humanity positively especially the vulnerables, women and the children in our society.

Dr. Chizoba enumerated the challenges of the association to include lack of office space, vehicles for medical mission to the rural areas, funds to carry out their programmes and solicited the support of the present government.

"While we seek for partnership, we are not ignorant of Gov. Otti's unwavering commitments to the health sector in the state and the supportive role you are playing as the mother of the state to lift the downtrodden out of poverty" she said.

Poly Proprietor Seeks Govt Partnership For Entrepreneurial Development In Akwa Ibom

Lovina Emole

The Proprietor, Ibom Metropolitan Polytechnic (IMP), Engr Victor Williams has called for Akwa Ibom State government partnership in the area of entrepreneurial and vocational skills development. The Proprietor made the call in an interview shortly after the unveiling of 'Entrepreneurial Club' by the Federal Government Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) at the school premises in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State capital.

He revealed that before the inauguration of the club, the institution is training about 1000 indigenes on skill acquisitions such as oil and gas, fabrication, welding, plumbing among others and urged the governor, Pastor Umo Eno to assist the trainees by sponsoring their global certification.

The Proprietor who explained that his Polytechnic is already in partnership with the University of Texas petroleum training department as well as the City and Guild of London vocational training centre noted that certification from those international institutions will give his trainees and students leverage to get good employment abroad or in other multinational companies in Nigeria.



L-R 6th Engr Dr. Victor Williams (Proprietor IMP), L-R 5th, Lady Rose Bassey (Perm Sec Min of Education),

He noted that many Oil and Gas companies and multinational industries value expertise and skills in specialized fields more than University certificates hence the reason his Polytechnic pays premium attention in training its students on skills and vocations which has paved the way for many of them to get juicy offer from oil companies in Nigeria and abroad. According to him, "We are so concerned in preparing our students with specific training and skills alongside the academic certificates. We want government to sponsor the global certification of the 1000 Akwa Ibom people we are training.

"We don't need the money. If you train people and give them University of Uyo or Lagos certificate, it will not cross the border, but if you give them the certificate from City and Guild of London Institute, it is recognized

have City and guild certificates.

"If state government can do that for them, I will put them in the world employment fora in such a way that if a job comes out, they will be called. As we are suffering unemployment many countries do not suffer it, they are even looking for people that will do the work but you must have the right qualifications.

"we need to prepare our people and equip them with international certification so that they can travel out and bring the foreign exchange. What we want the government to do is to sponsor the international certification, we will support them in offering the free training."

On his part, the Rector, Engr. Nnamonso Akpabio urged Akwa Ibom State government to partner with the institution by building a three storey Entrepreneurial hub

in that would accommodate all the over 150 training departments in the school. He also commended SMEDAN for the choice of the institution to launch the entrepreneurial club and urged the students to maximize the opportunity by taking all that would be taught seriously as such gesture would add a feather to them when they graduate.

The Director General of SMEDAN, Charles Odii represented by the Akwa Ibom State Manager, Lucy Ekpenyong urged the students to be innovative and aspire to launch their products before graduation and promised to support them to have access to mentorship programmes and funding opportunities.

The DG said the essence of inaugurating the club was to empower students with the requisite entrepreneurial skills to be self-reliant and productive upon graduation.

In his vote of thanks, the Entrepreneurship consultant for IMP, Mr. Unyime Abasi thanked SMEDAN Director, Charles Odii for partnering with the institution in the inauguration of the Entrepreneurship/Innovation hub; other relevant agencies as well as the Akwa Ibom State government for their support in promoting the entrepreneurial development of youths in the state.

News

Emetu Tasks Churches To Sustain Prayers For Abia Government

By Charles Ogbonnaya

Abia State Deputy Governor, Engr Ikechukwu Emetu has called on Churches to sustain their prayers for the present administration to enable it realise its good dream of rebuilding the state for the better. The Deputy Governor, who stated this when he received the prelate of the Eternal Sacred Order of Cherubim and Seraphim worldwide, His most Eminence, Baba Aladura, Dr David Bob Manuel and members of the Advisory board of the Holy Order who visited him in his office at government house lauded the church for their support and prayers during last year's general election.

He pointed out that the present administration led by Governor Alex Otti is committed to the welfare of Abians as it has cleared backlog of salaries and pension arrears owed workers and pensioners in the state, embarked on massive reconstruction of roads among others.

The Deputy Governor congratulated them as they prepare for the centenary celebration which will hold next year and assured them of govt's support.

Earlier In his address, the Prelate of Eternal Sacred Order of Cherubim and Seraphim (ESOCs) Worldwide, His Most Eminence, Baba Aladura, Dr. David Bob-Manuel, Moses Orimolade IX. said that they were on pastoral visit to the state and also to inform the Deputy Governor of their forthcoming centenary Endowment Fund launch scheduled to hold on the 9th of September 2025.

He congratulated them for their electoral victory and commended the laudable developmental transformation being executed by the present administration ably led by Governor Alex Otti adding that they will not relent in their prayers for the government.

The visit featured presentation of gift to the Deputy Governor by the prelate and special prayers for the success of the present administration.

Ukwa-East LG Boss, Lauds Otti, Woos Support

By Chukwuemeka Egejuru

The Mayor, Ukwa-East Local Government Area (LGA) Abia state, Dame Ngozi Nwagbara (Ph.D) has lauded Governor Alex Chioma Otti (OFR) for his efforts at retrofitting 17 LG Councils across the state.

Fielding questions from National Ambassador in her office, Akwete-Ndoki Abia state recently, the council boss disclosed that Dr. Otti has shown capacity through his developmental strides across the state within few months in office.

She lamented that Ukwa-East LG headquarters has been in shambles before the ongoing retrofitting of the council by Gov. Otti through the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs.

Nwagbara who further revealed

that Gov. Otti-led administration would soon commence projects like: Health centres, schools and road constructions among others in Ukwa-

East LGA, maintained that Abians are blessed having Otti as their Governor.

She also disclosed that Obeaku-



Ndoki bridge that collapsed five years ago has been fixed, while the Obohia Motor Park and Ohambele skill acquisition centre have been retrofitted and functional, courtesy of Ukwa-East LG Council.

She urged the people of the area to continue supporting the administration of Gov. Otti to provide more democracy dividends to them, noting that Obohia - Aba Road would soon be reconstructed to ease human and vehicular movement in that area.

On the perennial lack of electricity in Ukwa-East LGA, the Council boss revealed that they have visited Geometric Power in Aba, stating that light would soon be restored sustainably in the area.

HOS Tasks Abia Civil Servants To Upgrade Themselves

Ndubueze Ngozi

The Abia State Head of Service, Dr. Mrs Ngozi Obioma has said that, capacity building is a key to achieving a formidable technology-oriented work force.

Dr Mrs Obioma who stated this in a meeting she held with directors, deputy directors and heads of department in various MDAs at Michael Okpara Auditorium, Umuahia, maintained that competence lies in one's upgrading

his/her capacity so as to perform optimally.

The Head of Service who frowned at the level of dilapidation in the civil and public service system, re-emphasized the need to revisit ethical values which according to her will change the narrative from the old order to the vision of realizing a new civil service in the new Abia.

She warned civil servants who hijack duties that are not under their

jurisdiction, thereby providing porous and poor oriented jobs to desist from such act, so as to achieve better results.

The HOS stressed the importance of team work in order to achieve remarkable success and used the medium to advise all not to look down on people living with disability, rather they should be given a sense of belonging in the scheme of things.

Contributing, the Principal Secretary to the Governor, Mr. Chinenye Uzoukwu appreciated the head of Service, Dr Mrs Ngozi Obioma, for her doggedness towards sanitizing Abia workforce and used the forum to call on all civil servants to key into the vision of the Governor, Dr Alex Otti in the rebuilding process.

The meeting was interactive while the head of Service later constituted an army brigade for new Abia civil service agenda.

Ibom Power Needs Funds To Perform Like Ibom Air-Etukudo

Lovina Emole

The Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Ibom Power Company, Engr. Meyen Etukudo said Akwa Ibom State Government needs to inject funds into the power company as it did to its Airline, Ibom Air, to enable it function optimally. He added that Ibom Power would have gone farther if it had received the same support and backup from the state government as was given to its counterpart (Ibom Air).

Etukudo who made the assertion in his office recently in reaction to questions from Newsmen on how the company would be repositioned said government should fund the company to be able to do all its maintenance and bring back its GT band.

He said the company never received any fund from the two successive administrations.

His words, "way forward is for state government to put money in Ibom Power as they put in

Ibom Air. Ibom Air can increase the price of air ticket from N80,000 to N180,000 and anyone who does not want it can go without making noise over it.

"You can't do such in Ibom Power, you can't increase tariff from N1000 to N2000. from the last two administrations, even One Naira has not gone to Ibom Power. The state government took 20 billion Eurobond for Ibom Air. We are saying, take us an Eurobond of 20 billion even 10 billion, let us do all our maintenance, bring back our GT bands and run as we should, we will stand better and will be paying back every month."

Speaking on the ongoing audit of the company as ordered by governor Umo Eno, the MD explained that he has no reservations as all the records are available and his activities were never shrouded in secrecy.

He explained that over seven years as Ibom power MD he has never borrowed any loan as erroneously speculated rather he

inherited 10.48bn debt, other debts and 33 financially related court cases.

He further explained that the only time Ibom Power Company would have obtained loan should have been when the company owed three months staff salary due to "waterfall policy" by NEC which did not give the company money to pay salaries.

His words, "We met 10.48 billion Naira loan debt on ground, or should I put it as it is, 11.6m USD collected from Afrexim Bank. Ibom Power Company was owing Accugas 2.62 billion Naira as at then. Diamond Bank was 2.34 billion Naira, Access Bank debt was 202 million Naira, Agrekko was 23 Million Naira, Zenith Law Firm was 24 million Naira, in addition to the 33 Court cases, all financially related. All these happened before I assumed office, the records are there."

He also disclosed that he was

able to generate money and paid the sum of 5.4 million Dollars out of 11.6 million dollars owed to Afrexim Bank and also removed the court case from London Arbitration Court to Cairo which is the headquarters of Afrexim, and paid 62,000 Pounds to the two lawyers; paid 95 per cent of 2.34 billion Naira owed to Diamond Bank, (remaining just 420 million Naira to clear); paid off the 202 million Naira owed to Access Bank; and every other debts he inherited.

He also hinted that 27 of the 33 Court cases have been successfully resolved expressing hope that the remaining six cases will be resolved accordingly even as he noted that the morale of staff have been boosted.

"I have no iota of fear,, what for? all the records are there. I can't expected the MD of Ibom power for life. I've paid my dues, I've fought a good fight as Apostle Paul said in the Bible. I expect that the right thing should be done." Engr Etukudoh added

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

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

The Significance Of Mrs. Priscilla Otti's Visit To The Amaudo Integrated Mental Health Foundation, Itumbuzo.

Recently, the wife of the Abia State Governor Priscilla Otti visited the Amaudo Integrated Community Mental Health Foundation, Itumbuzo where she promised increased Government Attention to the center that was established by an English Missionary, Nkechi Rosalind Colwell to cater for mentally ill patients. The visit of the Abia State First Lady to the centre is not something that should be glossed over as it is very significant in many ways. Firstly, the facility is a very important one as it has helped to cure thousands of mentally ill people, reintegrate them back into the society through imbibing them with relevant

for the destitutes and less privileged members of the society but also the importance which the present government under the able leadership of His Excellency Dr Alex Otti attaches to the problems and welfare of the most neglected segment of the society. This facts will be fully appreciated when it is realized that this is the first visit by the wife of any past governor to this very important facility as was revealed by the Director of the Centre, the very Rev. Kenneth Nwaubani. Yet, this is not ought to be so. The streets of both the urban and rural areas of Abia State is suffused with a large population of mentally ill patients most of whom lack the specialized care they



skills and has generally assisted the government in taking them off the streets. Again it signifies not only the love and passion, Her Excellency, Mrs Priscillia Otti habours

deserve. The situation has been made worst by the absence of psychiatric hospitals in the state excepting the Amaudo Integrated Community Mentally Health Foundation Itumbuzo, Bende Local Government Area, Abia State that is owned and managed by the Methodist Church. It is indeed quite commendable and reassuring that the wife of the Abia State Governor has assured of Government help to the later. However the problem of the State harbouring large numbers of mentally ill people requires a more robust and well coordinated engagement by relevant stakeholders. Since the present administration is now acquiring fame and acclaim for its rebuilding efforts, we urge for state government action towards an integrated approach in solving the problem of mentally ill patients in the state. The situation is indeed dire and requires urgent attention.

Need To Foster Unity Among Ourselves In Abia

Dear Editor,

Permit me to Use your widely read newspaper, to appeal to the good people of God's Own State; on the need to foster unity among ourselves and have a good maintenance culture. It will be a year in few weeks, when our God-sent, good hearted, peace loving governor, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti resumed office as the governor of our great state, Abia. Dr. Otti began transformational works immediately he was sworn in as the governor despite election petitions which made him appear in court few times before the final verdict was given. He never got distracted by anything, he came and made it clear to all that he is a man of purpose, with a vision for a new Abia. His transformational strides cut across every sectors of the state: economy, education, construction, medical, infrastructure and security to mention but a few. I salute the governor for the numerous landmarks projects, enactment and execution of policies for good governance, constructions and reconstructions of roads and structures, just as several write-ups that have applauded him for the great works he is doing. Away from appreciating the governor, I wish to create an indulgence that good maintenance culture is a necessary virtue which every Abian must possess now so that we can enjoy the dividends of the numerous changes happening in the state. We must endeavour to be our brother's keeper, by so doing we are simply aligning ourselves with the security reformation agenda of the governor. We should be watchful and report suspicious movement in our vicinity to the appropriate security agencies. There is also a need for peaceful coexistence within us, let us have good sense of humour while relating to one another in our offices, market place, factories, while on transit; bearing in mind that happenings in the country currently especially economical hardship affects all. Another way of complimenting the efforts of the governor is by being responsible citizens, paying our taxes, electricity bills, keeping our environment clean and proper disposal of refuse, staying away from bad vices. This will enable effectiveness and efficiency of the vision for new Abia. Calls have been made to civil and public servants to be polite, dedicated and diligent in their duties. It is just right that every public officer and civil servant obey this call, to join hands with the government to achieve the set goal of a new phase of service service in Abia state. We can not continue the old way and expect newness to flourish. So, let's put off our old nonchalant attitude and join hands together with the government for a brighter future.

Ezewuru Adaeze Mary
Umuahia

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

Opinion

Mayor Of Ohafia Takes A Quantum Leap

Gideon-Oji Oji Agwu

When the highly imaginative, foresighted and experienced manager of people and resources, Dr. Alex Otti, was elected the Executive Governor of Abia State, the citizens that had been despondent were immediately invigorated. Their hope and belief could be seen from the spark in their eyes, swag and, even the ambience and friendly disposition everywhere suggested the audacity of hope. At least, they believed that His Excellency, Dr Alex Otti, was going to clean the Augean stable and put the State on the right track. They thought it will take a lot of time, considering the extent of economic damage and retardation, and were prepared to exercise patience. But, the swift and wind-like movement of the socio-economic program of the Governor chagrined all, including myself. Well, the giant strides and well-articulated economic development of Abia

initiated by Dr. Alex Otti is not the plank of this article but for an auspicious time in the near future because it is interminable.

One of Otti's imaginative solid steps is the political paradigm shift in the administration of local government councils in Abia State which saw the appointment of prominent, distinguished and experienced well to do aristocrats as Mayors of the 17 local government councils of the State. Although there was resentment from political jobbers, who thought it would still be business as usual, "food for the boys". The progressive democratic elements applauded him and the positive result of this gesture is so glaring that even the blind can feel it. The choice of Chief David Onuoha Ogba Bourdex for Ohafia local government astounded all. There was a groundswell of opinion that he would not accept such a position because he is so accomplished that heading

the third-tier of government on a transition level was, to say the least, "infra dignitatem". Yet, he accepted it with pride, dignity and sincerity of purpose, just like others appointed for the other 16 councils. A call to duty. Therefore, I think there is a collaboration of genuine Abia political elites with Otti to pull the chestnut from the fire (political doldrums).

The quality and mindset of Chief David Ogba Onuoha Bourdex has raised the stake

of administration in Ohafia so high that when he leaves, in the near future, a standard would have been set for referencing.

A few days ago, Bourdex, the indefatigable Mayor of Ohafia, commenced a road project from Agboji Abiriba to Nkwebi Ohafia. The road which is more than Four Kilometers will traverse two streams, Binyom on the Abiriba end and Agbaa on the Nkwebi end. I consider it a quantum leap by the

MAYOR because of the difficulty of the terrain and the strategic importance of the road to the economic development of Ohafia local government council. The road has been abandoned for over 50 years. It use to be the major link road between Ohafia and Abiriba. All business transactions, cultural interactions and social activities between the two communities were done through this road. Unfortunately, this road was neglected and became a dangerous mere footpath.

The importance of this laudable project initiated by the MAYOR of Ohafia cannot be overemphasized. It will open up economic activities between Ohafia and Abiriba. It will reduce the distance and cost of transportation when completed. There are three agrarian communities within the Ohafia end that will benefit immensely - Nde Aku, Nde Uduma Ukwu and Oboro. Moving their farm products to Abiriba markets would be cheaper and faster. Instead of a detour through

Amaekpu or Okagwe via Ohafia- Uzuakoli-Umuahia highway that would take about 25 minutes to get to Abiriba, this new road would take less than 10 minutes.

Most bubbling and thriving economies derive their strength from good road network. It can only be a political leader of Bourdex's caliber that will conceptualize and initiate this road project which will complement the painstaking efforts of the Governor. And it will be of immeasurable value to the Ohafia people if the Deputy Governor, His Excellency Engr. Ikechukwu Emetu, makes good his promise and liaises with his principal towards building Sisibia- Oboro- Nkwebi-Okagwe- Amaekpu road (original Bende- Ohafia road) that was diverted through Mmuri after the Civil War. When this is achieved, traffic congestion will reduce drastically and Ohafia will experience a beehive of socio-economic activities. Ohafia people are optimistic and confident in this government.

They thought it will take a lot of time, considering the extent of economic damage and retardation, and were prepared to exercise patience. But, the swift and wind-like movement of the socio-economic program of the Governor chagrined all, including myself

Wisdom for living

With
Ezewuru Adaeze Mary

Understand this, you are the most essential of every factor needed for the change you seek, that song by Adekunle Gold, "The grass is greener on the other side, that's what I thought before I took the ride... If I had known that, the life I was wishing for is already my own" teaches us contentment, and serves as an advice to flee covetousness. Why do you desire the green grass across, when you can plant a garden where you are and make it greener? know that many wasted time, lost opportunities as well as resources, some lost their life while trying to pursue elsewhere what they could make happen where they were and become celebrities. Every land is blessed, this does not in any way mean migration is a crime, not at all; one might need to travel to get raw material,

achieve more skills, get essential training for better results.

So, before desiring and launching out to the unknown, uncertain, unverified destination, I advised selfdiscovery and discovery of purpose for living.

Get to know "the real you" what drives you, your abilities and most importantly know your inbuilt ability and resilience towards attainment of goals. Be dedicated to a course and have passion to drive on until the desired result is attained no matter what, this has nothing to do with location but has everything to do with you.

It is good to desire a better life, you want more money? Fine, nothing is wrong with being ambitious but I can tell you everything is wrong when you start thinking or believing that such

dreams can only be fulfilled abroad.

You can only have more success or better accomplishments elsewhere if you are successful and have valuable accomplishments in your present location, no matter how little. Remember you are the most important parameter in the equation of moving from the present to your desired

future.

It is always too late to cry when the head is off, just as the saying prevention is always better than cure; therefore it is expedient to have a rethink, as to understand the reason for wanting to relocate; do not be covetous, see good in what you are doing with numerous blessings surrounding you. "Rome was not built in a day" look within and draw strength to cultivate your

own garden and nurture it, understand that, every green grass across is an indication of someone's deliberate act of consistent hard work and diligence. Stop longing to have what you do not labour for, how do you intend to reap what you did not sow or from where you never planted? "Remember, a labourer desires his wages", start from where you are and with what you have. It is good to have a desire for greatness, but wake up and get busy doing something productive and profitable.

Get busy, stop being lazy and hoping to have sudden breakthrough abroad, be focused and determined, know that hard work with consistency, and dedication, will soon bring people to start desiring to be associated with your success. The Bible in the Book of Isaiah

60: 3 says "Kings shall come to your light and gentiles to the rising of your morning". Get up! Build your own garden, plant flowers in it and daily nurture it, very soon you will see it blossom so much that people will start referring to it as "greener" more than that, which you so desire now. Nevertheless, if you must relocate, ensure you have strong conviction and genuine reason before quitting what you're doing, also endeavor to have what it takes for better life where you are going to because you don't get rewarded for mere wishing. You get rewarded for your contribution. It takes mining to get golds, no street, city or country had it as dust.

So, live your life in such a way that, your presence anywhere might be of great impact and your absence greatly felt.

It is good to desire a better life, you want more money? Fine, nothing is wrong with being ambitious but I can tell you everything is wrong when you start thinking or believing that such dreams can only be fulfilled abroad.

News

Eze Elect Of Ovu Autonomous Community Asked To Rule With Fear Of God

By Dende Enyide

The Mayor of Bende Local Government Area, Hon Chijioko Nwankwo, has charged the Eze Elect, Ovu Autonomous Community, Elder Michael Nnadi Okorie, to rule with the fear of God and place priority on community service. The Council Boss charged him to make truth and justice the standpoint of his rulership and congratulated him on his selection. He further enjoined the Traditional Ruler to make sure he doesn't short change his people on issues that concerns them and enjoined him to ensure that they enjoy the dividends of democracy. The Council Boss further promised to take his file to the Governor for approval. The Eze-Elect Bende Ovu Autonomous Community, Elder Michael Nnadi Okorie in his acceptance speech, promised to be loyal to the Government of Governor Alex Otti, Bende Local Council and the Traditional Institution. He pledged to continue as before in the uplifting his community to greater heights. Eze-Elect Okorie, was selected as a replacement for their Late traditional ruler, HRH Eze



The Mayor, Hon Chijioko Nwankwo (center), The Eze Elect, Elder Michael Nnadi Okorie (2nd right), The Chairman Bende Traditional Rulers Council, Eze Uchendu Okorie 2nd left And Others During The Event

Nelson Emmanuel Arua Kalu General of the Community Chief Council Boss alongside the who died some time ago. Loveday C. Kalu had officially Monday Okorie, the three village In his address, the President presented the Eze Elect to the heads and three women leaders

that make up the community who stated that due process was followed in the selection of Elder Michael Nnadi Okorie as their Eze-Elect in accordance with their Constitution. Presenting the Eze-Elect to the Mayor Bende LGA, the director in charge of Traditional Institution in the Council, Comrade Orji Iheukwumere said that the community has fulfilled all the necessary process of selection and congratulated him on his selection, Eze Elect on his own part, the Chairman Bende Traditional Rulers Council HRM Eze Uchendu Okorie and Eze Patrick Udeh congratulated the Eze-Elect Elder Michael Nnadi Okorie for his selection and charged his people to rally round him to make his reign a progressive and successful one. The ceremony attracted the presence of retired Perm Sec. Mr Patrick Udeh, Mr Ibuchim Okorie, the HOS Bende LGA, Dr Joy Ekekwe, women groups, other youths groups and other notable personalities of the community. The high point of the event was the formal presentation of the Eze-Elect to the Council boss.

ASEPA Umuahia Zone To Provide Waste Bins For Public Transport Operators

By Charles Ogbonnayaz

The Deputy General Manager, Abia State Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) Umuahia zone, has disclosed plans by the Agency to provide waste bins to public transport operators. This he said was part of the efforts to ensure a green and clean Abia State. Mr. Jonah told newsmen in Umuahia that once waste bins have been introduced to the road users including the passengers, they would have to drop all waste in the bin which will be inside the tricycle, taxis and buses or face the environmental sanitation law.

We actually want to make Abia State one of the best as regards to cleanliness. We are just trying to let the people know that it's not business as usual again, that we need to sanitize the state by keeping it clean. "We have also told them to play their own part, because it's a partnership. They will do their own part and we will do our own part. We told them also that dumping of refuse will start by 5pm and end on 6am in the morning. And they don't need to be sending minors to dump site".

The ASEPA Umuahia zone boss, who

encouraged the residents to help the Agency by de-silting the gutters in front of their houses and keep them clean always, hinted that the Agency is currently de-silting all gutters in Umuahia, the State capital, which he said would be sustained. "That is one of the reasons we have to let people know that they should help the government of Abia State under Governor Alex Otti and ASEPA to achieve this objective. "So I advise the masses to help Gov. Otti and ASEPA to keep the state clean". He pointed out that every resident of the State is expected to have the State Social

identification number (ABSSIN) which will help them to pay whatever they needed to pay into the government purse "We also have a monitoring team that works together with the central tasks force. Whoever that is caught disobeying our directives will face the law. "Also, we have set up a revenue team to work with the Board of Internal Revenue to work out the revenue to be paid by users", Mr. Jonah further revealed.

Ukwa-East Council Boss, Receives Obohia-Ndoki Eze-elect

By: Emeka Egejuru

The Chairman, Ukwa-East Local Government Area (LGA), Dame Ngozi Nwagbara (PhD), has received Obohia Ndoki Eze-elect, Chief Ugochukwu John Nduwuisi, describing him as a man of integrity. Speaking at Ukwa-East Local LGA headquarters, Akwete during the presentation of Chief Nduwuisi as Eze-elect by Obohia Council of Mbichiriezis to the Council recently, the Mayor commended the people of Obohia-Ndoki community for conducting themselves properly, maintaining that their Eze-elect is renowned for community service and is a worthy son of the Obohia-Ndoki. She urged them to sustain

peaceful coexistence in their community and support Gov. Alex Otti's administration, adding that the Abia state Governor is determined to drive development to all parts of the state. She promised to convey the community's decision to Abia state government through the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs for ratification and approval. Earlier in his speech, the Chairman, Obohia Ndoki council of Mbichiriezis, Chief Ernest Enyinna Benson, disclosed that their community has unanimously nominated Chief Nduwuisi as their Eze-elect and they were at the council headquarters to present him officially to Ukwa-East LGA, pending further ratification from

relevant authorities. He further revealed that Obohia Council of Mbichiriezis is saddled with the responsibilities of taking care of the community in the absence of a king, initiate and present Eze-elect to Obohia community and government among others, according to the customs and laws of the land. In his words: "From 1949 till date, I have witnessed the emergence of several kings in Obohia-Ndoki, ranging from Eze Dike Chuchu Iwuoha, Eze Charles Nwagbara, and Eze Hyacinth Okere Dike (Iloko III) who died January 11, 2021". e noted that the ascension to Obohia-Ndoki ancient throne is rotational, adding that Nwarie family which is the

first son of Okoroaja has taken, and the next is Umunwulu family who has also nominated and adopted Chief Nduwuisi as the Eze-elect according to their customs and traditions. Contributing, a member of Obohia council of Mbichiriezi, Ezima Kanu has described the Eze-elect, Chief Nduwuisi as a community leader and philanthropic icon who understands the real situation of the people, having lived with them for years. He expressed hope that the Eze-elect, Chief Nduwuisi would drive the needed developmental agenda of Obohia ancient Kingdom when ratified by Abia State government. In his acceptance speech, the Eze-elect, Chief Nduwuisi

thanked the Obohia-Ndoki Council of Mbichiriezis and the entire community for the revered privilege to serve them as their traditional ruler, adding that he would not take it for granted. The Eze-elect 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 the people negatively. The Eze-elect further 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. Meanwhile, the Community youth leader, Comrade Chinenye Ukaegbu applauded the Eze-elect, Chief Nduwuisi, for accepting to serve Obohia ancient Kingdom in such capacity, expressing faith that he would not disappoint the people owing to his antecedents. Obohia-Ndoki community 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.

Focus

Airpeace and the Isi Agu Controversy

By Okey Ikechukwu

Now, wasn't that a really commendable move by Airpeace? "Something unique from Nigeria" is the message. The sewing and finishing of the outfit and the seamless, mature simplicity presents a uniqueness that is at once pleasant and compelling. Good taste, elegance and a firm bearing signposts the now-in-the-news outfit of Airpeace airhostesses on one of its international routes. Then, you have the graceful carriage of the wearers! Behold, the bold move of a Nigerian airline, as it inflicts a breath of Naijarama on the rest of the world.

And this is only a beginning. Other Nigerian varieties from Kano, the Kanuri, the Tiv, Akwete, Eko, Bini and much more should, and will yet, hit the international aviation superhighway.

Airpeace staff carried it off with a boldness and artistic self-certainty that stands out in bold relief. Think of the outfits of staff of other airlines, both local and international. What, for instance, confronts you in Ghana besides the "Akwaaba" greeting? Kente material is synonymous with that country but let us get on with the business of the day.

Isi Agu means "Head of a leopard". Is that what the Airpeace staff were seen wearing? Isi Odum means "head of a lion". Is that what Airpeace staff were seen wearing?

"Remember President Muhammadu Buhari's visit to Imo State? The presumed Igbo garment he wore on top, which the state governor the then Ohaneze President-General and the "Igbo leaders and dignitaries" present also wore, is the issue here. To all Nigerians, and the world at large, the Igbo leadership elite turned up in Imo State, decked out in the traditional Igbo outfit of Efe Isi Agu, to receive Buhari on behalf of Ndigbo.

But were they really dressed in the right attire? I think not. And the reason is simple:

The clothes they wore had the head of a lion (Odum) and not the head of a leopard (Agu) emblazoned on them. Thus, they saw themselves as wearing the traditional Igbo outfit for the highest possible occasion in the land on that occasion, when they were not. They would not have dressed the way they did if they knew better.

The point to note, and which is being made here, is that anyone parading the material that is routinely paraded everywhere today as the Igbo traditional attire, especially for men, should be told that Agu is not Odum, and Odum is not Agu. It is as simple as that. With the nascent, and even possibly pubescent, Igbo elite totally unaware of what they have walked themselves into, we now have about two generations of the young and old who do not know that Agu is not lion. Poor cultural education and the emergence of upstarts as cultural and leadership icons in Igboland are to blame for this.

That is why, everywhere today, the predominantly red background of this unduly thick material, within and around which is embedded the head of a lion, is the major defining motif for Isi Agu dress. But then, you also now find the head of a horse, or a dog with a hairy head area, donning the red material. And these still get passed off as traditional Isi Agu dress. Who knows, we may yet find one with the head of a snake, a drowning fish, or a wounded porcupine, as Efe Isi Agu".

Umahi wiped the subsisting shame of Igbo cultural bigwigs, intelligentsia, and political elite when he and

his people wore the correct Isi Agu (leopard head) outfit to a rally of the APC held in his state. Igbo leadership, including Ohaneze chieftains, received Buhari in Owerri dressed in the wrong outfit of "Isi Odum" (Lion Head), which over 90% of the Igbo population actually assume is Isi Agu.

Look wherever you may, the story is the same. This goes for Ndigbo in the Diaspora, where the situation is much worse. Our dear brother and friend, Alex Oti, the man whom I believe will bring Abia State to its long overdue glory, has an official picture where he is seen donning the same material, with the head of a lion (Isi Odum). Oti is a double-rated lion in the business and intellectual circles in his own right. So, he may wish to substitute the Isi Odum with Isi Agu, to send out a signal that will guide his ailing and failing political and elite peers – as well as the youths.

But, wait a minute! Where, how and why did all this confusion spring up? If the word "isi" means head in Igbo language, does "Agu" mean the head of any and whatever animal you can print on a piece of cloth with red background? Certainly not!

And that raises a simple and straightforward question: "Which animal's head should be on the red background material for it to be rightly called Isi Agu dress; which would thus make it the

The lion thrives best in semi-open plains, unlike the leopard; which is a climber and stealth hunter. Even in its favorite habitat, the lion cannot hold the title of king if the tiger turns up. Thus, the lion is not the king of any forest where you have even one full-grown Asian Tiger.

Lions are only known for their exploits, extravagant show of dominance and frolicsome independence in the plains of Africa, parts of the Savannah, the Serengeti and other places. They do not thrive in marshlands and wet zones, which is what we have in the more southerly parts of the country, or our Rain Forest belt. Thus, the giant cat of the Rain Forest belt, also extending a little into the Savannah, is mostly the Leopard.

Lions were not common sights in the South East, but they were known and were seen when they strayed from the middle belt Savannah into the outskirts of the Rain Forest area from time to time. The Igbo saying "Odum na-egbu agu" (The lion is more powerful and can demolish the leopard) is intended to induce caution in people who overrate themselves in one way or another. To further see the denotative and connotative nuances of the concept of Agu, among others, in Igbo thinking, let us examine a few things.

The crocodile is called Agu Iyi; which literally means "leopard of the river"; or the largest and most dangerous predator you can find in any body of water. Then there is another Agu, apart from the crocodile. That is the cunning Agu Owulu, or fox, the dreaded sneaky hunter with a lot of hair around the head area, which will snatch up your chicken in the dead of night with incredible stealth.

Let us look at another Igbo word and how it is sometimes used as a qualifier, the way agu is used as qualifier in an environment. The word "Ugbo Ala", is translated as "car" in English. Air plane is translated as Ugbo Elu. Ugbo Nmiri is boat, ship or water going vessel. Then you have Ugbo Aja (the trough, or receptacle, with which you carry the offering, or sacrifice). So, what is the meaning of the word "Ugbo" itself? A receptacle, perhaps? A means of conveyance? That in which something is carried from one place to another?

Just as there is the ugbo for carrying people on land, on water and in the air, you also have the Agu, as the representation of daring, heroic courage and dominance in any environment. That is the basis of the Igbo saying "Ebube agu n-eche agu", (the very aura, strength and agility of the leopard serves as its shield and protection)".

So, going back to the Airpeace matter, let us simply acknowledge the wisdom of that move. It is one of many Nigerian trademarks that can be put out there. Now that another Nigerian airline has also gotten clearance to go global, we should expect another Nigerian-based outfit to hit the international aviation space.

Let's have more. Kano, Kanuri, Efik, Tiv, Akwete, Eko, Bini and many others have much to project about us, as Nigerians. Lest we forget, the use of Asoebi (which I believe is of Yoruba traditional origin) for celebrations, knows no ethnic or religious boundaries in Nigeria today.



authentic Igbo attire it is claimed to be? The confusion in this regard is further compounded by the fact that some men whose traditional title is "Ogbu Agu" (Leopard Killer) introduce themselves in public as "Lion Killer", when translating the meaning of their title into the English language. Back then, what you found hanging on the wall of any man who bore the revered, and partly dreaded, title of Ogbu Agu was the skin of the leopard he killed.

I say nothing about the fact that Igboland now has many Ogbu Agus (leopard killers) who cannot kill a limping rat in their backyards. You also have many with the title of "Ochi Agha" (War leader, or General) who can neither defeat a sick man in a wrestling match, nor fire a catapult at a stationary object with anything but appalling inaccuracy.

In three particular instances, I saw the title "Agu Nze" (literally "Man of Heroic Integrity") translated as "Royal Lion". And this by people to whom the younger generation of Ndigbo are looking up for guidance. Therein lies a deep and serious problem that says more than is apparent at face value. So, let us place it on record that Agu is Leopard and not Lion. But, let us also still take this conversation further.

Every part of the world has its giant cat. The biggest of all cats is the Tiger (Panthera Tigris) of which the Siberian Tiger is said to be the largest, at 660 pounds and measuring ten feet from head to tail. We call the Lion "King of the Forest". That cannot be true for every forest. Even for the forest in which the lion resides, it is not king of every part, like the rivers within the forest. In the latter, the crocodile is often the king – and a king dreaded by lions, hyenas, antelopes, buffalos and even elephants in the area.

Ambassador Woman with Ihuoma Egbeogu

Female genital mutilation commonly known as female circumcision comprises of all procedures that involves partial or total removal of the external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non medical reasons. These practices has no mental or scientific values or justification and most cases are carried out in poor or completely absent hygienic conditions with evident consequences of physical and mental health conditions both in short and long term.

The practice of female genital mutilation is wide spread in Nigeria and varies from one state and cultural setting to another. According to United Nations International Children Emergency Fund, more than two hundred million girls and women alive today have undergone female genital mutilation.

Female genital mutilation is a violation of human rights of girls and women. It emphasis on women discrimination and inequality. It is a practice that is mostly carried out on young girls between infancy and age 15. This practice is very rampant in our society because it is imbedded in culture and tradition. People keep practicing them despite the fact that it is a very inhuman act on our girls and women. However, the harm perpetrated by female genital mutilation cannot be over emphasized. This practice is usually carried out by old women in the society who are designated to do them. They usually use all sorts of sharp instruments that are not sterilised that could cause infection and other complications. The irony of this act is that it is perpetrated by women on their fellow women. These women who must have undergone these processes and are well acquainted with the truma associated with it, still inflict such pain on their fellow women.

Furthermore, there are so many erroneous reasons why people practice female genital mutilation. It is argued that where female genital mutilation is a social norm, the social pressure to align to what others are doing becomes expedient and the fear of being rejected by the community if not participated, are some of the reasons why female genital mutilation is thriving.

Female Genital Mutilation A Menace To The Society

Moreso, it is usually viewed as being essential in the upbringing of a girl child and also a way of preparing her for adulthood and marriage.

It is argued that female genital mutilation will help curb the sexual appetite of women and girls in the community. These reasons are not supported by any statistics or experiences. They try to suppress the sexual appetite of women while they enhance that of the men. This is inequality, barbaric and completely unacceptable.

Female genital mutilation is like a cancer worm that has eaten deep into the girls and women in our communities.

Howbeit, another reason for practicing female genital mutilation is because it is viewed as a way of preserving the virginity of the girl child which will in turn increase matrimonial opportunity of the girl child. All these unguarded and purported reasons are ignorantly accepted by those practicing this inhuman act. They are beclouded by the view that this practice enhances fertility, while the reverse is the case.

There are health consequences associated with this barbaric practice. Female genital mutilation has serious complications on reproduction and emotional well being of our women and girls. It posses a lot of health challenges which sometimes are not usually curable and can lead to perpetual damage. These health challenges ranges from severe pain inflicted while

perpetuating the act. Women who underwent this process usually experience painful intercourse in marriage, there by making sex to become a nightmare. Female genital mutilation which results in difficulty in child bearing has grounded alot of families. These families who are ignorant of this plight will attribute their misfortune to their fate. Another health consequence is the vulnerability of contracting infections such as HIV, herpetitis B etc. It could lead to possible infertility, cysts, abscess on genitals.

Female genital mutilation is also associated with mental health issues such as anxiety, depression etc. Survivors of female genital mutilation are usually trumatized and this usually makes them withdrawn in the society. Circumcised girls are socially stigmatized and rejected in communities. It also results in psychosomatic disorders, constant feeling of betrayal, bitterness, fear, inhibition and suppression of feelings.

However, this menace could be curbed in our society by saying no to female genital mutilation today to save the future of the girl child and women.

It is often said that a problem shared is half solved. It behooves on the citizenry to fish out the perpetrators of such practices and give clear information about them to the higher authorities.

Education of people on the health and mental effects of female circumcision will mitigate this menace in the society.

It is expedient to work in synergy with other concerned personalities to stop the practice in our communities.

Organizing symposiums, seminars, talk shows etc in town halls, schools, churches, will reduce these pandemic to the barest minimum.

More so, making laws against female circumcision will go a long way to mitigate this menace in our society. When the perpetrators of such acts are well informed about the full weight of law that will be leveled against them if found guilty, it will serve as a deterrent to these perpetrators.

Finally, all hands must be on deck to enable our women and girls to find their voices to be heard. Efforts must be made to take required action against female genital mutilation. By so doing, the society and the world at large will be a very pleasurable place to inhabit

Female genital mutilation is a violation of human rights of girls and women. It emphasis on women discrimination and inequality.

Family Matters

By Okechukwu Ubani

You see no matter how good you think your communication skills with your partner is right now, you can improve on them.

Communication can be defined as the art of passing across news, information, feelings or whatever, to somebody else. Communication is done mostly in words.

But in marriage, communication is more than passing across a feeling, thought, message or desire. It also involves how a thing is said, and when it is said, understand how partner may feel when you say some hurtful wards.

The word "communication" in marriage is broken down to "communion", which means "sharing thoughts and feelings." To commune means to "speak together as close friends." Therefore, communication is a major component that makes oneness possible.

Men who are too busy to spend quality time with their wives, or too busy to return home and spend quality time with their families are courting trouble.

For instance, as a wife, your children and you should understand your husband's vision, so it will be easy for you people to make the necessary sacrifices to ensure he doesn't fail. Also as a man you should be able to understand your wife and help her realize her vision in life as she also help you to realize your own.

A lady met a pastor some time ago, complaining about her situation. She said she and her partner were

Learn To Communicate In Your Marriage

contemplating divorce, just after one year of marriage. They live like cat and dog. Probing further, they discovered that their problem did not start after their marriage, but while they were still courting. They never spent time talking and getting to know each other. That was why a marriage of just one year months had cracks already.

What then, are these Components of Communication?

1. Trust!

There's no solid foundation for communication outside trust. God's Word says: And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed (Genesis 2:25). The man and his wife must work at being trustworthy, for

The word "communication" in marriage is broken down to "communion", which means "sharing thoughts and feelings." To commune means to "speak together as close friends."

it is only then that they can earn the trust of each other, giving communication a solid foundation.

Women complain that while they love to tell their husbands what their fears, hopes and aspirations are, the men say nothing. Perhaps, that's why H. Norman concludes, "Many men believe women perceive information differently, and they share in public what men see as only personal. However, trust is essential, if we are going to be able to communicate always with our spouse."

2. Understanding!

God's Word says: Through wisdom a house is built; and by understanding it is established (Proverbs 24:3). Understanding is the basis of effective communication, which is where successful homes are established. When understanding is in place between couple, less friction is bound to occur.

Many homes are destroyed because of misunderstanding. The husband misunderstands his wife's actions; the woman also read meanings into simple statements made by the man. That is why God's Word says: Good understanding giveth favour... (Proverbs 13:15).

3. Openness!

No one keeps secret from himself. God's Word says: ...Hide not thyself from thine own flesh (Isaiah 58:7). Openness and transparency here, does not mean saying everything that is in your mind; that may be regarded as dumping garbage on your spouse. No! Communication simply entails, maintaining an attitude of openness, with nothing to hide.

Photo Speak

Briefings From The Exco Meeting By The Commissioner For Information And Culture, Prince Okey Kanu held recently



ANPA Medical Team During Their Outreach In Abia State



Photo Speak

Members of ACCIMA who visited the Chief of Staff to the Governor recently



Protest By Okwuta Community Over The Death Of Their Kinsman Who Died In Mysterious Circumstances At Hotel Royal Damgrete





**For Further Enquiries
08107148390**

Our advert rates are:

	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

NDDC Build Power Sub-station to Listen Ondo Communities

From Aligwe Stella, PH

The Niger Delta development commission, NDDC, as part of its mandate to provide infrastructure and developmental projects in the Niger Delta region, has built a power sub-station that would provide electricity to over 2,000 communities across 5 local government areas within the oil-producing region of Ondo State.

Confirming the completion and connection of the 132/33kv electricity sub-station the commission built at Ode-Erinje in Okitipupa LGA of Ondo State to the national grid during an inspection of the project, the NDDC's Executive Director, Projects, Sir Victor Antai, noted that the power station is a legacy project that would boost economic activities and improve the living standards of the benefitting communities in the State.

He maintained that the NDDC was committed to providing electricity to oil-producing communities in Ondo South Senatorial District that had been without electricity for the past 15 years, stating that the sub-station would be inaugurated very soon.

Speaking further, the Executive Director, Projects revealed that the commission had awarded a contract for the total rehabilitation of the distribution network because it was eager to hook up the power lines to the injection sub-station and enable the benefitting communities to enjoy electricity from the national grid.

"We are committed to lighting up all the local government areas and the oil-producing communities in Ondo South Senatorial District.

"This is part of NDDC's mandate to provide infrastructure and development projects in the Niger Delta region. The Commission is committed to fulfilling this mandate by completing all on-going projects.

"The power sub-station is a legacy project which is in line with the directive of our Managing Director/CEO, Dr. Samuel Ogbuku, to see to the completion and commissioning of legacy projects that will make meaningful impact on the lives of our people.

"The MD/CEO has also directed that we replicate this legacy project across all states in the Niger Delta and we thank the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for giving the NDDC a performing Governing Board that has the interest of the people at heart", Sir Antai stated.

In his own view, Engr. Benson Obayelu, who stood in for the contracting firm, hinted that the scope of the power project covers the evacuation of light from Omotosho with a step down at Ireje through a 132KV double circuit line with two 30/40MVA transformers at Okitipupa; while observing that the 5 LGAs in the Southern Senatorial district of Ondo State that have been without public power supply would be connected when the project was completed.

In his words, "the transmission lines run through Ireje with 145 electricity towers that are standing on concrete foundations."

Responding, the Acting National Chairman of the Traditional Rulers of Oil Mineral Producing Communities of Nigeria, TROMPCON, Dr. Obafemi Ogbaro, expressed sadness owing to the fact that Ondo South Senatorial District had been in darkness for years, stating that nothing is as important as being connected to the "national" grid of the country.

Also speaking, Ondo State Representative on the NDDC Board, Hon. Otitokunbo Atikase, discovered that several communities across 5 LGAs in the oil production belt of Ondo were eagerly waiting for the lights to be turned on in their localities. He explained that access to electricity was essential for economic development and improving the quality of life of the people, pointing out that lack of electricity had hindered growth and development in many communities in the Niger Delta region.



NDDC Managing Director, Chief Dr. Samuel Ogbuku



Cross section of participant at the summit

Youths Urged To Shun Pipeline Vandalization, Other Destructive Vices

By Okereke Kate

Youths have been urged to shun any activity that can cause degradation to the environment, raging from pipeline sabotage and vandalism, among other illicit activities.

Rising from the 2024 Youth Peace Summit held in Umuahia, Abia State, the President, Niger Delta Youth Peace Builders (NDYPB), Comrade Chibuike Emmanuel, said that pipeline vandalism does not only wound our potentials but results to lost of revenue, creates unemployment, fuels poverty, breeds conflict and unrest and as well, causes poor infrastructural development.

Presenting his address at the annual youth summit, Comr Emmanuel, said the youth of the Niger Delta region should not be defined by the protracted challenge facing the region, because they possess the power to break free from the cycle of destruction, as they have the potential to be agents of change and architects of a thriving future.

He said that workshop is a testament to the potential embedded in the youth of the Niger Delta region and also creating the opportunity for them to share ideas and empower themselves, as well as, learn from experts about the devastating impact of pipeline sabotage and as it affects not just the environment but the future of the youths.

The President of NYDPB stated that the workshop would afford participants the opportunity to explore peaceful alternatives, ways to channel energy and aspirations into constructive pursuits and businesses, creating art and shaping a sustainable future for the region.

Comrade Emmanuel noted that the Niger Delta region is united by a common goal, urging the youth to build a better future for themselves and the region. "A future where peace reigns,

opportunities flourish and our environment thrives. The path to this future is marred by a significant obstacle; pipeline sabotage and vandalism. Therefore, the urgent need to nip in the bud this challenge".

He, however, commended the efforts of the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt Hon Benjamin Kalu, for instituting the Peace in the South East project, which according to him, is a beacon of hope, creating the platform for dialogue, collaboration and commitment, so as to overcome the challenges facing the region and build a more peaceful and prosperous region.

The group's President further urged the participants at the summit to become peace ambassadors in their various communities, spreading awareness and encouraging others to join in the cause of change, as it cannot be achieved by a few but requires collective efforts, commending the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), for their contributions in realizing the workshop, which he said was a significant step in the right direction.

He said the support of the NDDC for the workshop, shows their commitment in investing in the future of the youths and also in equipping the youth with knowledge and skills needed to become active citizens and build a better tomorrow.

Earlier, the chairman on the Occasion, Hon Onyendi Okwulehie, in his keynote address, highlighted the dangers of pipeline vandalism to include the destruction of the economy, loss of lives and other valuables, stating that the workshop was apt, as it would create the avenue for youths to come together to address the menace of pipeline sabotage and vandalism.

Hon Okwulehie harped on the need for youths of the Niger Delta region to disconnect from all forms of illicit environmental activities and pipeline

vandalism, as it causes air and water pollution, that poses great risk on our health.

Also, in his goodwill message, a social Activist, Mr Chika Nwabueze, encouraged the participants to make good use of the workshop to reposition themselves, since it has the capacity to change their thoughts and world views.

He said so much expectations had been placed on the youths, urging them not to disappoint but continuously engage themselves positively, shunning behaviors that are detrimental.

In a paper presentation, entitled, "Taming the Beast in the Body of Pipeline Vandalism, Territorial and Subduer, Who are most Affected? the Resource person, Jonah Orji, said Pipeline vandalism is a deliberate attempt by individuals or group of individuals, who have premeditated thought and decided to take action of intrusion, breakage, cutting and damaging oil pipelines to steal petroleum products either for personal use, to sell on the black market or to process in illegal refineries.

Orji said activities of pipeline vandalism is taking top discussions, since it poses a lot of threat on our environment, health and economy.

According to him, it causes serious issue that has resulted to explosions, loss of lives and livelihood, environmental degradation, truncation of bio life, negative externalities, loss of crops, vegetation and animals, economic hardship, climate change, among others.

He added that pipeline vandalism brews a lot of consequences ranging from loss of jobs for potential oil and gas employers, psycho-social effect, economic and

legal consequences and other risk factors.

The Management and Research Consultant disclosed that the impact of pipeline vandalism demands urgent attention, requiring publicity and lodging various campaigns through institutional channels to reaching out to the affected persons and communities, so as to stem the tide of the act.

He, however, recommended for a reward and incentive schemes be put in place to discourage vandalism and for youth entrepreneurship programs be formalized to harness talents within the Niger Delta Region.

Also for the youth department of the NDDC to continue in the campaign to curb the adverse consequences of pipeline vandalism in the Niger Delta.

Equally, he opined for repented pipeline vandals to act as watchdog over others and report cases of such incidence to the appropriate authorities, stressing that a database for all trained youth across the Niger Delta region be formed.

Taking responses from the participants, the Chief Executive Officer of Afrique Styles and Concepts, Organizers of the Face of Afrique Styles Pageant, Amb Umah-Kalu Jessey, said pipeline vandalizations are majorly carried out by the men, but lamented that the effects of the acts are felt across both gender, calling for more women to join in the campaign against the eradication of pipeline vandalizations.

Amb Jessey further urged the youths to discover their potentials, as well as, work and run with them so there won't be any need for them to be involved in illicit activities.

News



Akwa Ibom State Gov., His Excellency Gov. Umo Eno Visit to the family of the late Nollywood make-up artist, Abigail Edith Frederick who died alongside Junior Pope while returning from film shooting

Rep Sam Onuigbo Buries Only Brother At 73

By Okereke Kate

Former National House of Assembly Lawmaker who represented Ikwuano/ Umuahia Federal Constituency at the 9th Assembly, Rep Sam Onuigbo, has laid to rest his only brother, Chief Lawrence Onuigbo-Oriaku, at age 73.

Chief Lawrence Onuigbo-Oriaku who was the elder brother of the ex lawmaker, was committed to Mother Earth at his home town, Obuohia-Ibere Community in Ikwuano Local Government Area of Abia state.

The funeral ceremony which attracted the presence of the Senator representing Abia Central Senatorial District, Sen Austin Akobundu, the Deputy Speaker of House of Representatives, Rt Hon Benjamin Kalu, who was represented by Chief Daniel Akwari, the member representing Ikwuano/Umuahia Federal Constituency, Hon Obi Aguocha, the former Minister of State for Mines and Steel Development, Dr Uchechukwu Sampson Ogah, the member representing Ikwuano state constituency at the Abia House of Assembly, Chief Boniface Isieyi, Veteran Nollywood Actor, Kanayo O. Kanayo, Traditional Rulers, Clergymen among other notable dignitaries, had encomiums pouring in about the deceased.

In his tribute, Hon Onuigbo described his late elder brother as a peace loving man, who stood for peace at all times and never conceived or harbored evil against anyone.

According to him, the Onuigbo family is a happy family that is closely knitted, adding that when their father was passing away, he urged them never to quarrel and expressed joy that they kept the bond which he said, was made possible by their late elder brother.

He said the peaceful disposition of his elder brother, helped the Onuigbo family as a whole to always live in love and unity.

"Our brother, Late Chief Lawrence Onuigbo-Oriaku, was a just man, he never perverted justice even as a Judge of the Customary court. He earned so much respect from our community, that at a time, they were planning to give him a traditional leadership.

"He was responsible, reliable, peaceful, dependable, honored and highly respected.

"Today we have come to celebrate him and his achievements and I pray that the peace and love that reigned in our family while he was alive, will continue".

The ex Lawmaker, however, appreciated everyone who made time to be with the family at the time of grief.

Earlier in his sermon, Snr Apostle Onyeije Raphael, charged Christians to always live ready because they do not know when their Maker would call them back home.

In his message, titled, 'Come Before Winter', the cleric enjoined everyone to be generous and always attend to the needs of the poor, stating that it is whatever we do here on earth that would be remembered when we are no more present, making reference to the Biblical story of Dorcas, who was remembered for her good deeds.

Taking his references from 2 Timothy 4:21 and Luke 23:40, Apostle Raphael encouraged everyone to return back to Jesus not minding their sins, stating that the mercy of God is always available for the forgiveness of their sins.

The Late Chief Lawrence Onuigbo-Oriaku until his death was a Judge of the Customary court, he left behind his wife, children, brother, sisters, uncles and aunts to mourn him.

Gov Otti Backs FG's Drive For Affordable Housing Solutions

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

Governor Alex Otti of Abia State has said that his administration aligns with the Federal Government's plans aimed at increasing affordable housing opportunities for citizens to address the housing deficit in the country.

Governor Otti stated this when he received in audience, the Managing Director of the Federal Housing Authority (FHA), Mr. Oyetunde Ojo, who paid him a visit in Nvosi, Isiala Ngwa South Local Government Area.

The Governor expressed gratitude to President Bola Tinubu for prioritizing the provision of shelter for Nigerians, especially those in the diaspora.

He outlined plans to initiate housing schemes aimed at offering affordable housing solutions, particularly for Abia residents abroad.

The Governor revealed that his government has secured land for a housing project tagged "Diaspora Village", which he said aligns with the agency's vision of providing affordable houses across the nation.

"Our agenda for evolving the 'Diaspora Village' project and provision of affordable housing aligns perfectly with the vision of the federal government.

"We will be setting up the structure for them and a system that would allow them to pay on installments to own a house in the Diaspora Village.

"We are very much open to partnering with the federal government on increasing affordable housing for the citizens", Otti said.

He emphasized the state's commitment to facilitating payment plans that will enable individuals to own homes in the Diaspora Village through installments.

"I can assure that you won't

be short of off-takers, because the state government will show sufficient interest by off-taking the house and deal with it locally", Otti assured.

Governor Otti while acknowledging the Agency's efforts to involve both the government and the people of Abia in the housing initiatives, commended their decision to engage local contractors for the project execution, which he described as a total departure from past practices that often led to political favoritism.

Earlier, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Housing Authority,

Mr. Oyetunde Ojo reiterated the Agency's determination to provide affordable housing solutions nationwide.

Ojo, emphasized the importance of involving states in the project development and ensuring housing designs align with cultural and societal needs.

He highlighted the agency's focus on digitalization and the creation of 'a City in a City' concept to cater for the housing needs of Nigerians in diaspora, aiming to eradicate experiences of fraud and land disputes commonly encountered in housing transactions.

"It is believed that this would end the bitter experience

of people in diaspora being duped in their quest to build a house in Nigeria.

"We want to synergise with Diaspora Commission, Tourism and Abia Government to execute this project, so that people outside can buy this property

"We are going on digitalisation whereby Abia people abroad buy a property in their state from their phone.

"This would afford them opportunity to say 'this is my land, this is my property', and easily check with the Ministry of Housing in Abia State, Ministry of Lands and simultaneously check with Federal Housing Authority and Diaspora Commission," Ojo said.

Shun Social Vices, ABSCHOMAT Rector, Charges New SUG Executives

By Chikwueke Egejuru and Stephanie Adindu

The Rector, Abia State College Of Health Sciences And Management Technology Aba, Abia State

(ABSCHOMAT), Sir Alloy Okezie has urged the newly elected leaders of the Students Union Government (SUG) of the institution to be law-abiding and render selfless services to students.

The Rector who disclosed this to newsmen shortly after the SUG election, congratulated the winners of the keenly contested exercise, reiterated the school management resolve to prioritize the welfare of staff and students.

The Rector, further charged them to shun cultism and other forms of social vices, urging them to take their studies seriously while insisting that his administration has zero tolerance for any form of

corruption from staff and students.

In his remark, the newly elected SUG President, Mr. Echewaodo Cyprian thanked the students for their confidence reposed on him, expressed through their votes, adding that he would not disappoint them.

Echewaodo who also decried lack of light at night for students to study, promised to collaborate with the Rector to change the aged-long narrative.

The SUG President who also thanked the Rector for creating an enabling environment for free, fair and credible elections in the school, promised to make the welfare of the student community his utmost priority.

Meanwhile, the Chairman, Electoral Committee, ABSCHOMAT, Mr. Frank Nnadede who thanked students for their massive turn out,

congratulated the winners of the contest.

Nnadede who advised the newly elected SUG executives to serve with the fear of God, urged them to be magnanimous in victory and carry everybody along.

Contributing, a student of the institution, Mr. Thank God Ekeke has congratulated the newly elected SUG executives, expressing faith that they would not fail the students.

Mr. Ekeke who further thanked the Rector, Sir Okezie for his unwavering commitments towards students' welfare, also applauded his neutrality during the electoral contest.

Earlier, Cyprian Echewaodo who was declared Winner of SUG President, garnered 274 votes to defeat his close rival, Mr. Samuel Ihearioriochi who scored 239 votes.

Entertainment

I've No Regrets Being A Stripper' - Bbnaija Chichi.

Former Big Brother Naija housemate Chinenyenwa Desire Okoebor

The reality star, who recently announced her retirement from exotic dancing, said if given another chance to be a stripper again, she would grab it.

In a video message shared via her Instagram account recently, Chichi disclosed that American rapper and former stripper Cardi B inspired her.

She said: "I just woke up to see that my favorite Cardi B. has commented on my tweet. She has really inspired my life. She changed my life without even knowing it.

"Cardi B made me realise that I can be whoever I want to be in life. I will never regret ever being a stripper. And I will never deny the



fact that I used to be a when no one was there? stripper. Why would I If I have the opportunity deny an occupation that to do it over and over catered for my needs again, I will."

We Don't Communicate' - Davido On Relationship With Wizkid, Burna Boy

Nigerian Afrobeats star David Adeleke, aka Davido, has disclosed that he and his colleagues, Wizkid and Burna Boy, don't communicate.

The 'Unavailable' crooner Boy?" the host, Sway, asked, revealed this on the to which Davido nodded American show Sway's negatively.

Universe. He also downplayed the "Do you all communicate, comparison between him, you with Wizkid and Burna Wizkid and Burna Boy.

Contrary to assumptions that he, Wizkid, and Burna Boy are currently the three biggest Afrobeats in the world, he said he is the only big Afrobeats artiste.

Davido revealed in an interview last year that Wizkid and Burna Boy reached out to him when he lost his first son, Ifeanyi, in a swimming pool accident



Singer Paul Okoye Hints At Remarrying

Popular singer and half brother of P-Square, Paul Okoye, aka Rudeboy, has hinted at remarrying.

The 'Reason With Me' crooner dropped the hint while scolding fans for wishing his divorce from his ex-wife to be toxic.

He stated that he would not succumb to their wishes, urging them to accept the reality that he is with his new partner, Ivy Ifeoma.

He went on to unveil hashtag options for himself and his partner, Ifeoma.

On his Instagram story, Rudeboy wrote: "Some of y'all wish and think all



divorces must be toxic, blame so that y'all can be looking for someone to entertained...lol

Tiwa Savage Says She Became A 'Boss Lady' To Make New Film 'Water And Garri'.

Executive producing was like me just putting my boss hat on and trying to be a boss lady in all aspects of my life. It was fun and it was stressful doing that and also starring in it. But it just showed me that I can do anything I put my mind to. There are so many things that I have dreams of accomplishing and now I'm really motivated," she said.

She also spoke about why she wanted to go into acting and why the movie bears the same title as her 2021 EP.

I've always wanted to do acting. I've always wanted to do movies. Actually, that was my first love before music. So it felt like a full circle moment for me. I just felt it was time for me to finally get into that. I never wanted to let go of music, so it's a great way for me to still embody that."

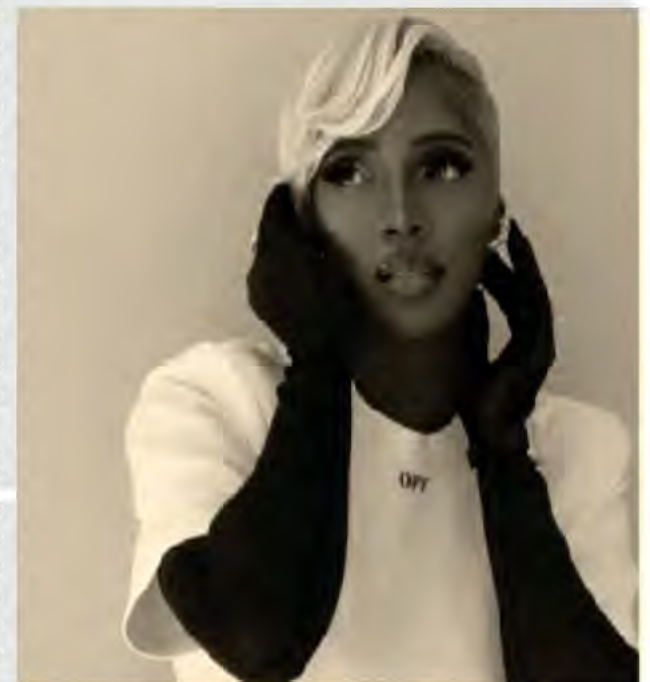
Savage said that she was drawn to the film because it was told from a female perspective. Water and Garri follows a Nigerian fashion designer who returns to the country after building a successful career in the US.

It's a story first of all told by a female from a female point of view. I'm always an advocate for that and I don't think we have enough of that in the space of Nollywood and just in Africa in general. We do have but I don't think we have

enough. It's refreshing for me. It's a story about love, female empowerment," she said.

Savage also spoke about the rise of Afrobeats in the West.

I feel like genres like RnB, jazz, soul all originated from Africa, so it's a full circle moment to have Afrobeats having its moment right now. And then hear elements of it from the rhythm to the soul in the music. I felt like we were losing a bit of that in commercial music these days. It's good to see that African music is getting its shine again," she said.



Alleged Naira abuse: Davido reacts to Cubana Chief Priest's bail

Singer Davido has reacted to the N10 million bail granted socialite Pascal Okechukwu, aka Cubana Chief Priest after he pleaded not guilty to alleged naira abuse.

Cubana Chief Priest, who was arraigned before Justice Kehinde Ogundare of the Federal High Court, Lagos, by

the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on a three-count charge bordering on abuse of the Naira, was granted bail for N10m with two sureties in like sum after pleading not guilty.

Davido said it was not possible for Cubana Chief Priest to be jailed, stressing that he could not bear not seeing him

for six months. He wrote, "I no go see u for 6 months ke... Never."

Recall that Justice Abimbola Awogboro of the Federal High Court in Lagos, sentenced popular crossdresser, Bobrisky to six months in jail without the option of a fine after he was convicted of Naira mutilation.



WHAT KIND OF OUTFITS DO YOU WANT YOUR MAN TO WEAR?

Fashion tips
 with
Sandra Chibuike
 sandychybyke1@gmail.com

Paying attention to your fashion is very important if you want to make a good first impression. As a gentleman, you want to look stylish, appropriately dressed, neat, decent, in all, just well put together. Because the ladies appraise what you wear. From our childhood, we were taught not to judge a book by its cover, but our first impression of someone is usually always based on their appearance. Because It is easy to judge the character of a man by the cut of his suit. And although it's widely believed that women love with their ears, a good sense of fashion in men is still strongly welcomed.

I spoke with a bunch of women, both singles and married to know what exactly they love in their men's outfits, and here are their responses:

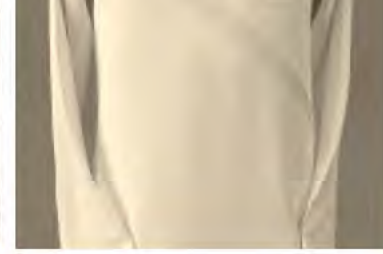
Mrs. A:
 "Oh well, for me it depends on the occasion. There's no specific kind of outfit, I do not really subscribe to corporate wears. I prefer senator shirt and trousers. For casual I like a pair of jeans and T-shirt. My hubby looks cute on senator-styles and looks sexy in any white attire."



Mrs. C:
 "I love his Ankara wears. Or when he just dresses in his Jean and polo. Corporate attire is a no no for me."



Mrs. F:
 "I love to see my hubby in Shirt with trouser or traditional attires." Simply put, I love it when he dresses formal, be it traditional or corporate, but not casual.



Mrs. C:
 "I love smartly sown Ankara with sneakers, T-shirt on Jean trousers with sneakers will always appeal to me"



Mrs. U:
 "I love seeing my husband in long sleeved senators, polo tops and jeans/shorts with sneakers." Any outfit that makes him appear smart and attractive are just perfect for me.



Ms. V:
 "For Casuals; I love to see my guy in Jeans and T-shirt, with a good pair of Snickers to complement his looks. I also love simple native attire that can still go with snickers. And Well-tailored cooperate shirts and pants for work."



Traditional attire for us in Nigeria is always a win win. Almost every woman loves it on their man, especially senator style made with Ankara or suiting material.

Obviously, most of the ladies I spoke with like jeans. Jeans are just as long-lasting as a leather jacket. Any man (regardless of his age or body type) needs a perfect pair of jeans in his closet. Well, it's not that easy to find a pair of the best fitting jeans but it's definitely worth the effort. We love it when our guys dress well and look good. Truth is every woman likes her man to wear clothes that makes her proud to stand by him. Some ladies go as far as choosing the clothes their hubby will wear each day. It all depends on how close you are with your man. The important thing is that, your man dresses in a way that makes you proud of him, and makes him more attractive to you.

Features

Gov. Otti Taking Abia State From Rot To Excellence

By Dickson Paul

March 18th, 2023 will remain historic in the lives of Abians who made the right choice by electing His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti of Labour Party as the Governor of the State. Looking at what is visible, the governor is taking the State from rot to excellence. Dr. Alex Otti is shocking the PDP that is more or less considered dead in Abia State with his aggressive mega projects scattered across the three (3) Senatorial Zones of the state especially in infrastructure and human development.

The undevelopment inflicted by the PDP administration in the state which caused the people, pains and trauma almost completely cut them off from civilization, but they found favour in the sight of God who brought Alex Otti, what we couldn't achieve collectively as a state in 24 years of suffering, has been achieved within the short period of Dr Alex Otti's administration.

Dr Alex Otti, has broken the jinx that appeared to frustrate efforts of the previous administrations. The governor has earned the reputation of not just a jinx breaker, but a leader with the midas touch who within the short period in office, has catapulted Abia State from mockery to exemplary, the mantra of his electioneering campaign.

Honestly, amazing things are happening in Abia State. Some Abians see the administration as the golden era because of the fact that they never had it so good in the years back, describing it as days of "locusts".

That is not all, some other people in the state maintained that during the time of the PDP, "Abia State was put on the reverse gear". Continuing, another section of the people saw it as the period when there was no

government in Abia State. Indeed, Otti has been busy clearing the mess created by past government.

Otti started on a clean slate where every achievement will be boldly and visibly written.

Abians are commending the governor for not being threatened by what was on ground (huge debts) but was focused and propelled by his vision to take Abia State to an excellence height.

Candidly, Otti was not unmindful of the negative impact these huge debts have on the development programmes of his administration, but he is determined not to be deterred by this unfortunate reality of a legacy betrayal.

Looking at the man that directs the affairs of the State, the people's choice, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti is determined to forge ahead in his drive to impact positively on the lives of the generality of the people who are yearning for visible improvement in the quality of social services and infrastructural development in the State.

Abians are happy that the governor is keeping faith with his promises. Observation has revealed

that just within this short period in office, the clean slate that the government started on, has recorded Otti's imprimatur of scintillating performance and indelible stamp of excellence, thus restoring hope to a once despondent people and gradually rekindling their interest in governance.

The various sectors of the state have received the Otti's touch of excellence, a task which hitherto seemed frighteningly gargantuan and insurmountable given the enormity of the rot.

Today, township roads are passable, labour is no longer restive, while the civil service has become more efficient and positioned to face the new challenges of governance as well as new Abia.

Education is given its pride of place, while the health sector has also gotten a welcomed lift. No doubts, the wind of change is blowing in Abia State and her people, smarting from a battered psyche, now savouring the refreshing rush of the soothing air.

Unarguably, the most outstanding achievement of Dr. Alex Otti's administration is in the area of road construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation to which the government has shown seriousness. Some of the roads include, Port Harcourt road Aba, Udeagbala road Aba, UmuImo road Aba, Ohafia- Arochukwu road, Ossa road Umuahia among others. We are not

forgetting the dualization of the federal roads for easy flow of traffic and also, the light up project. This road infrastructure cuts across the senatorial districts of the state and it delights motorists and commuters as their motorability are being savoured by the people.

Abians believed that Otti is working assiduously to break the jinx of the inability of the past governments to make the people of the state enjoy potable water.

The truth is that, the governor's achievements so far are by no means exhaustive. But we shall be bringing to your knowledge, the sectoral achievements of this administration.

This is because, the present government in Abia State is tirelessly touching every segment of the society. No wonder the people of the state are full of praises for Otti genuineness as against the fanfare we had in the past.

Abians believed that the present government is a huge success and they are advising the governor not to relent in his efforts. Otti is doing so well to the extent that the critical sector of the society, the press, acknowledged his

remarkable achievements. Alex Otti is seriously transforming the state since he assumed office, and the facelift given in all the segments has changed the landscape from the despondency he met it. He has performed creditably well and made the "Democracy Day" worth celebrating because the real dividends of democracy are visible.

This writing can-not be complete without mentioning the salty criticism of the administration by the opposing PDP. You don't expect all their members to acknowledge that Otti knows the job. Even though the members of PDP who are not stingy with the truth are saying that the governor is working, while others speak as a result of envy and hunger.

No doubts, according to the Bible, "when the righteous is on the throne, the people rejoice". The government of Otti has done what PDP could not do in 24 years of maladministration.

Looking at the governor, he is not resting on his oars. Abians are urging Otti to renew his covenant of development and progress for Abia State. We are happy that the governor is keeping his promises in spite of distractions geared towards stalling his determined march to the revolution of a new Abia State. We also ask that the government should exceed all expectations in their journey to provide good governance with human face.

Lastly, God helping, as Dr. Alex Chioma Otti continues with his administration, the government should remould, re-focus and re-engineer, positively the battered psyche and living standards of ndi Abia, derailed, by hunger, lack, development inertia, near total absence of governance in the real sense of the term and loss of hope. Abia State is surely on the march to greatness.

The governor has earned the reputation of not just a jinx breaker, but a leader with the midas touch who within the short period in office, has catapulted Abia State from mockery to excellence, the mantra of his electioneering campaign



Foreign

Togo Constitution: Opposition Says Changes Are Presidential 'Power Grab'

The opposition in Togo has denounced a proposed new constitution as a power grab, intended to extend the reign of President Faure Gnassingbé.

The reforms would see the West African country move from a presidential to a parliamentary system. But the opposition says they are a ruse to keep Mr Gnassingbé - already in his fourth term - in power.

The president's supporters say the changes would reduce the powers of the head of state by transforming the presidency into a ceremonial role. Human Rights Minister Yawa Djigbodi Tségan says they will "improve democracy in the country".

But the opposition says the reforms would allow him to remain president until 2031 and then be appointed to the new position of "president of the council of ministers" - in effect prime minister - continuing his family's 57-year rule.

President Gnassingbé came to power in 2005 after the death of his father, who had been president since 1967.

The constitutional changes were approved by lawmakers. But in the face of mounting public anger, Mr Gnassingbé paused the reforms and said they would be subject to further consultations.

'Don't Touch My Constitution' Pro-government lawmakers have conducted visits around the country to "listen to and inform civilians on the constitutional reform".

Customary rulers and selected groups were among the main target of the discussions - but no changes were made as a result.

There is widespread fear among people about expressing views in public in case they are targeted by the authorities,

especially in light of police cracking down on anti-government protests.

Opposition press conference under the banner of "Don't Touch My Constitution" was broken up by authorities.

Gerry Taama, the leader of the second-largest opposition party, the New Togolese Commitment, said he feels "disappointed with what is happening".

'Not going to accept this' One-time presidential candidate Brigitte Kafui Johnson, who leads the opposition CDPA party, described the constitutional amendments as a "power grab".

In contrast, those supporting the constitutional changes argue they will strengthen democracy and improve political stability. "The aspirations of our people are not served by the current constitution," said Pacôme Adjourouvi, an adviser to the president.

Activists and opposition leaders had called for protests - but these were banned.

Amid the turmoil, Mr. Gnassingbé postponed this



month's parliamentary elections, a move that only served to stir up the unrest.

Then the government announced that the elections would go ahead after all, rescheduling them for 29 April, just over a week later than the original date.

The opposition insist they will not back down until the changes are withdrawn.

"We're not going to accept this, and we will fight against this constitution," said Brigitte Kafui Johnson.

Spain And Slovenia Say Palestinian State Should Be Formally Recognised

At a joint news conference, Spain has long been a champion of Palestinian rights and last month Slovenian Prime Minister Robert Golob said: "The most important thing is that we have Ireland, Malta and Slovenia to take the first steps towards recognising a Palestinian state."

Mr Golob did not give a timeline for this, saying

the matter did not depend on Slovenia and Spain alone but on other international factors.

However, he said Slovenia would vote in the United Nations Security Council for full membership of a

solution was the answer to the conflict.

International peace efforts have long focused on creating an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel, but these have been stalled for a decade.

Since 1988, 139 out of 193 United Nations member states have recognised Palestinian statehood.



Un Urges Israeli Forces To End Attacks By Jewish Settlers.



▲ Israeli troops during a raid in the West Bank city of Nablus on Monday. Photograph: Alaa Badarneh/EPA

The UN human rights office has called on Israel's security forces to immediately end their active participation in support for attacks by Jewish settlers on Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. A string of settler attacks on Palestinian towns and villages in the West Bank have been reported in recent days. The attacks began on Friday, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. The attacks ramped up to the killing of a 14-year-old Israeli boy in what authorities said was a militant attack. Seven Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces or settlers since the attacks began on Friday, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. The attacks ramped up to the killing of a 14-year-old Israeli boy in what authorities said was a militant attack. Seven Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces or settlers since the attacks began on Friday, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. The attacks ramped up to the killing of a 14-year-old Israeli boy in what authorities said was a militant attack. Seven Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces or settlers since the attacks began on Friday, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry.

Source: Aljazeera

SPORTING AMBASSADOR

With Jacob Joseph



EPL: Chelsea dares Arsenal in London Derby

Arsenal's title hopes will face another big obstacle this Tuesday when Chelsea storm the Emirate Stadium to engage them in a London Derby, barely a week after they were eliminated from the UEFA Champions League. The Gunners title hopes suffered a setback in week 33, when they missed the chance to go top of

the table after Liverpool had surprisingly lost at the Anfield to Crystal Palace. Playing at the Emirate Stadium, Arsenal were expected to take all three points against Aston Villa, even after the first half had ended goalless. Unfortunately, Bailey and Watkins scored within the last ten minutes to deny Arsenal the

opportunity to top the league table. This result, however, favored the defending champions, Manchester City, who tops the table with 73 points as at press time, two points above Arsenal and Liverpool. This Tuesday will be another big threat to Arsenal's title ambition as their city rivals, Chelsea visit the Emirate Stadium basking in the euphoria of their 6-0 demolition of Everton. If they re-enact that performance, Arsenal will have a very difficult night.

The league is Arsenal's last hope of winning a silverware this season and they are definitely aware of the problems Chelsea, whose recent resurgent can see them qualify for the Europa League, can cause. In the reverse fixture played on October 21, 2023, at the Stamford Bridge, Declan Rice and Leandro Trossard scored late in the second half to cancel Cole Palmer and Mudryk's goals as the encounter ended 2-2. This match is important to both sides and will definitely have far reaching consequences.

In other matches, Wolverhampton Wanderers will



With 20 goals so far in the league, Cole Palmer is emerging the revelation of the season

welcome Bournemouth as Crystal Palace tread tackles with Newcastle United. Merseyside Derby will take place at the Guddison Park where Everton will host Liverpool. Manchester United will take on bottom placed Sheffield United at the Theatre of Dreams.

On Thursday Brighton will host defending champions, Manchester City.

This weekend will witness matches across England. On Saturday, West Ham and Liverpool will go head to head as

Alex Iwobi's Fulham battle Crystal Palace.

Manchester United will welcome Vincent Kompany's Burnley while Newcastle United and Sheffield United will tread tackles.

Wolves will attempt to devour Luton Town as Everton host Brentford. Aston Villa will tackle Chelsea at the Villa Park.

On Sunday, Bournemouth will host Brighton as Tottenham take on Arsenal. Nottingham Forests will have their hands full when they face the defending champions, Manchester City.



Frank Onyeka in action for Brentford. He recently scored his first goal for the club.

EPL: Enyimba Host Katsina Utd, Eye Top Spot

The People's Elephant, Enyimba International of Aba will have their eyes on the summit of the Nigeria Premier League table when

they host Katsina United in one of the week 32 matches. With only seven matches to the end of the season and Enyimba on second position as at press time it is clear that

the defending champions are in pole position to successfully defend their title and thereby represent Nigeria in next season's CAF Champions League..

Their sister club, Abia Warriors will storm the Centre of Excellence to take on Sporting Lagos, who recently parted ways with their coach Paul Offor following spate of poor results.

In other matches, Doma United will seek to disunite Kwara United as Bendel Insurance welcome Heartland to the Samuel Ogbomudia Stadium. Remo Stars will attempt to out-shine Niger Tornadoes as bottom placed Gombe United tread tackles with Lobi Stars. Akwa United, the Promise Keepers, will attempt to keep their promise of taking all three points when they host Kano Pillars while Enugu Rangers and Plateau United fight to finish in a battle for the top spot. Bayelsa will be on fire when Rivers United visit the oil rich state to keep a date with Bayelsa United in a Niger Delta Derby



Enyimba International Of Aba

Man Utd Could Initiate Talks To Sign Sesko.



Premier League giants Manchester United are expected to open talks with RB Leipzig to sign their star forward Benjamin Sesko in the summer transfer window, according to journalist Ben Jacobs. Speaking to The United Stand, Jacobs said, "There's a feeling within Manchester United that Rasmus will better his tally next season. I'd expect United to be in the conversation for Sesko. Martial is leaving. Greenwood, United are likely to get a fee for."

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SEMI FINAL: Bayern Confront Madrid As Dortmund Tackle PSG

By Joseph Jacob

Bayern Munich of Germany will take on Real Madrid for a place in the final of this season's UEFA Champions League while Borussia Dortmund will take on Paris Saint-Germain in the second semi-final.

In the first leg slated for next Tuesday, dethroned German champions, Bayern Munich will host the most successful side of the competition, Real Madrid at the Allianz Arena.

Both sides have previously met 26 times with the Spaniards having the upper hand with 12 victories while Bayern Munich have recorded 11 wins. They have settled for a draw in three occasions.

The last time they met in this completion was on May 1, 2018 in the second leg of the semi-finals at the Estadio Santiago Bernabeu and the encounter ended 2-2 with Real Madrid progressing 4-3 as the first leg in Germany had ended 2-1 in their favour.

Generally, Bayern Munich have won 33 times against Spanish opponents, drawn 16 and lost 20 times.

Real Madrid on their part have won 40 times against German opponents, drawn 15 times and have lost 24 times.

To reach the semi-finals, Bayern Munich held Arsenal 2-2 in the first leg of their quarter-final match at the Emirate Stadium before Joshua Kimmich's powerful header in the 63rd minute of the second leg in Germany, nailed Arsenal's coffin.

Arsenal had all the possession without making any serious threat in the vital area of their opponent.

Real Madrid on their part were held to a 3-3 draw by Manchester City in the first leg in Madrid. They were out played in the second leg by their host. Against the run of play Rodrygo opened scoring for the Spaniards in the 12th minute after his first attempt was saved by Ederson in goal for Manchester City.

It took more than one hour for Kevin De Bruyne to equalize and the match eventually dragged to penalties, and the visitors won 4-3.

The first leg of the second semi-final between Borussia Dortmund and Paris Saint-Germain will take place at the BVB Stadium in Dortmund on Wednesday next week.

Both sides have met six times with PSG having the upper hand with two wins and three draws while Dortmund have only one win. That victory came on February 18, 2020 in the first leg of the round of 16. Dortmund won by 2-1 with Erling Haaland scoring both goals for Dortmund while Neymar Junior pulled one back for PSG.

Borussia Dortmund have confronted French opponents 24 times. They have won nine, lost nine and settled for a draw in six occasions.

PSG, on their part, have confronted German opponents 29 times. The Paris side have won 15 times, drew four times and lost 10 times.

To reach this stage of the competition, Dortmund over-



Kylian Mbappe is the most dangerous man in this season's UEFA Champions League with eight goals.

turned their 2-1 loss in the first leg of their quarter-final encounter with Atletico Madrid to win 4-2 in Germany and 5-4 on aggregate.

While PSG had to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat having lost the first leg at home 3-2. They went to Nou Camp knowing that nothing but a victory will see them qualify and grabbed the victory defeating 10-man Barcelona 4-1 to qualify 6-4 on aggregate.

The UEFA Champions League final will hold on June 1,

2024 at the iconic Wembley Stadium in London, England. If Borussia Dortmund defeats PSG and Bayern Munich eliminate Real Madrid, we will be seeing an all-German final for the first time since 2013 when both sides met. Bayern Munich defeated Borussia Dortmund 2-1 before 86, 298 spectators packed inside the same Wembley Stadium. As the UEFA Champions League returns to Wembley, will history repeat itself?



Andriy Lunin in goal for Real Madrid neutralised Manchester City