

**NCAC DG
Endorses 2024
Abia Hospitality
Business Conference**

▲ Pg. 4

**Tips For Surviving
Nigeria Now**

▲ Pg.9

**We Will Build A New
Government House
Befitting For Abia People
-Gov Otti**

▲ Pg.13

NATIONAL Ambassador

N250 VOL. 23 NO.099

“Uplift the people, project the nation”

August 11, 2024

nationalambassadorng.com nationalambassadorng.com nationalambassadorng.com Nationalambassador NationalAmb report@nationalambassadorng.com www.nationalambassadorng.com

Reactions Trails South East Boycott Of Ongoing Nationwide Protest

By Okereke Kate

As Nigerians Continue with the End-bad-governance protest, reaction have continued to trail the boycott of the protest by South Eastern States.

Investigation from our reporter showed that the protest was not effective in the south east of Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Imo and Enugu States. Our Reporter who went around the Abia State Capital, gathered that the Umuahia city centre was a ghost town, as some major Streets, Workers Secretariat and most Government offices were deserted amidst protest.

Recall that a nation-wide protest was initiated by Nigerians to kick against bad governance which they alleged has given rise to untold hardship in the country.

The 10 days protest was scheduled to hold across the nation from the 1st to 10th of August 2024.

As other regions joined in the peaceful demonstration today, the South East region remained a protest free zone with residents shunning economic activities and resulted to sit at home.

It could be recalled that several Igbo groups had come out to urge the people to boycott the protest, recounting on past protests and their effects on the Igbonation.

The Apex Igbo social cultural organization, Ohanaeze Ndi Igbo, in a Statement, had called on the South Easterners to shun any demonstration against the government, following other calls from notable groups, as well as Igbo leaders.

In a Live Broadcast with All Breaking News in Umuahia, the Deputy Speaker of the House of

Representatives, Rt Hon Benjamin Kalu, had warned Ndi Igbo to sit at home instead of the protest.

According to him the Igbo people are the worst hit in any protest, stressing that the blood of Ndi Igbo had been shared enough.

Another group under the aegis of Abia Renewed Hope for Tinubu maintained a firm stance, backing Ohanaeze Ndi

Igbo in calling on the Igbo Nation to shun the nation-wide protest, scheduled from the 1st to 10th of August, 2024.

The Group in a Press Release jointly signed by the State Coordinator, Lady Queen Linda Ogbuehi, the Secretary, Chetachi Nwako and other Stakeholders, Hon Dr Uzuegbu Uchechi Paul and Hon Onyeije Onuoha Kalu, said going by historical activities, the Igbo people are

always the worst hit in any nation-wide protest or demonstrations.

According to them, past events have shown immense losses of lives and properties of Ndi Igbo.

The group reflected on the history of Igbo people in Nigeria, particularly, the aftermath of notable riots and protests, such as the 17th of April, 1978, called 'Ali Must Go Protest', the Anti-

SAP riots that happened between May and June 1989, against the regime of General Ibrahim Babangida, the 1993 June 12 protest, including the 2nd to 14th January 2012 Occupy Nigeria

Continued on Page 2



Gov Alex Otti of Abia State (right) and Public Relations Officer, Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria, CIBN, Mr Kelechi Adieley, during their visit to the governor recently.

Abia Ready To Boost Food Production

By Charles Ogbonnaya

The Abia State Deputy Governor, Engr. Ikechukwu Emetu, has said that the present administration in the state has formulated policies and programmes aimed at boosting food production and enhancing productivity in area of comparative advantage like cocoa.

Emetu, who disclosed this

during the inauguration of the Abia State is endowed with good members of Abia State Cocoa tropical climate and vast arid Development committee at the land that favours massive Government House, Umuahia, growth of cocoa, further said that the Governor Alex disclosed that the State Otti's administration placed a lot government in collaboration of premium on the revitalization with the Lutheran world relief of agriculture in the state with sponsored the training of cocoa special provision made for farmers in the field and cocoa integrated rural agriculture farmers association of Nigeria promotion.

Emetu, who pointed out that Abia State during their 2nd Annual cocoa festival in Abuja.

Continued on Page 2

MGOV. OTTI THANKS ABIANS FOR NOT JOINING THE ONGOING HARDSHIP PROTEST, PROMISES TO FIX SCHOOL ROAD

By Charles Ogbonnaya

The Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, OFR has thanked Abians for heeding to his plea not to join the hardship protests going on in some parts of the country which has resulted to the loss of lives and destruction of properties. Governor Otti expressed his gratitude to Abians recently while worshipping at Seventh-Day Adventist Church, No 1 School Road, in Aba South Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

Recall that Governor Otti had on two occasions within the week appealed to Abians not to join the protest. First was when he received Mr. Peter Obi, the Presidential Candidate of the Labour Party in the 2023 Presidential Election where they spoke to the Press after a private breakfast meeting. The second was through a State broadcast he made a day before the protest. On both occasions, he acknowledged the people's right to a peaceful protest to air their grievances and at the same time expressed worry that the protest may be hijacked by hoodlums and enemies of the progress the State is making under his administration. Addressing the congregation who were so excited of having him worship with them, Governor Otti said, "I want to use this opportunity to thank you and Abia people who listened to my plea not to come out, pour into the roads and disrupt services and activities and probably visit mayhem on the people".

"The reason is not because things

News

South-East Boycotts Nationwide Protest, Record Zero Participation In Abia

Continued from Page 1

protest movement, against fuel subsidy removal and the 20th of October 2020 End SARS protest, all showed that the Igbo have often been unfairly treated as sacrificial lambs.

Following these injustices and miscarriages of justice suffered by the Igbo community, given the negative effects of the protest in the lives and properties of the Igbo man in the past, the Abia State Renewed Hope for Tinubu, however, adopted a firm stance with the decision of the Ohanaeze Ndi Igbo and the South East Leader of the All Progressive Congress (APC) and the Executive Governor of Imo State, Sen Hope Uzodinma and other relevant stakeholders, that Ndi Igbo should not be a part of the scheduled nationwide protest, as it's negative effects are enormous.

They added that the action would create an opportunity for criminal elements and external Igbo detractors to exploit the situation and instigate further chaos.

The group further advised that the Igbo community should focus more on activities that could lead to the release of their son, Mazi Nnamdi Kalu, who has been incarcerated for several years now.

Also, the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), had called on Ndigbo across Nigeria to refrain from participating in the ongoing nationwide protest, hash tagged "EndBadGovernance" protest.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the IPOB's spokesperson, highlighted the group's stance, advising that the current economic hardships in Nigeria should be addressed by Nigerians.

Abia Ready To Boost Food Production

Continued from Page 1

His words, "I want to proudly say that our government will soon set in motion modalities that will engage the youth in Cocoa Development.

The 2025 budget no doubt will capture the establishment of cocoa processing factory in the state to help add value to cocoa products".

Emetu, who is also the chairman of the Committee, informed the members that their terms of reference should include the development of reliable Abia State Cocoa farmers database and formulation of Cocoa policy framework for the state; ensuring that government policies in the overall development of the cocoa sub-sector are effectively and efficiently carried out; encourage cocoa production and market opportunities and establish cocoa sub-committee and establish cocoa sub-committee in all local government area of the state and many more.

In a brief speech, the Commissioner for Trade, Commerce and Industry, Dr. Isaac Ukaegbu, who is also a member of the committee thanked Gov. Oti for considering members of the Committee worthy to work on his vision on Cocoa Development.

Furthermore, he promised that

the Committee will work in accordance with the laid-out terms of reference and will make sure that Abia State will be the number one in cocoa production.

Also speaking, a Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Agriculture, Dr. Cliff Agbaeze, also thanked Gov. Oti for the opportunity to work in Committee.

He pointed out that if the cocoa farm and production in Abia State is properly utilized, it will fetch close to two-billion-naira revenue for the state considering the current price of cocoa in the market.

He also pledged to give everything it requires to see that cocoa industry is established in Abia State.

Some of the members of the committee include: The Commissioner for Agriculture; Commissioner for Trade Commerce and Industry, Dr. Chimezie Ukaegbu;

Deputy chief of staff, Mr. Chinedu Ekeke; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Mrs. Aguwa Ijeoma; Director of Agriculture, Dr. Ojo Uma Ojo, Chairman Cocoa Farmers' Association of Nigeria, Mr. John Kalu among others.

Insecurity, Subsidy Removal, Border Closure Fueling Hunger, Hardship In Nigeria-Ex IPAC Chief

By: Okereke Kate

The hike in the prices of food commodities and the scarcity in its supply in Nigeria, have been attributed to insecurity, border closure among others

The former South East chairman of Inter Party Advisory Council (IPAC), Hon Emeka Okafor, who made this disclosure during an interview in Umuahia, said the continuous closure of the border and the activities of bandits, have contributed majorly to food shortages, which is currently the bane of Nigerians.

Hon Emeka Okafor, disclosed that farmers especially those in the Northern part of Nigeria, where food are produced in large quantities, no longer go to their farms, for the fear of being kidnapped or killed, thereby causing a high demand and hike in the prices of the ones available.

He said President Bola Tinubu should act swiftly by reopening the border, so as to complement the amount

of food produced in Nigeria.

According to him, "Our borders ought not to be closed at this time of shortage in food supply. What we produce is not enough for Nigerians. We lack the capacity to produce food that is sufficient for Nigerians".

He added that the Federal government should as well, reverse the price of fuel, which he said had contributed greatly to the economic hardship currently facing the people.

The ex IPAC chairman, however advised the presidency to come up with policies that would help scale up the economy and also, cushion the effect of the current situation, appealing to the nation's President to display political will power which he is known for and stop receiving advice from people who do not have a clue about governance.

Okafor lauded Governor Oti for reintroducing the School's Sporting Competition which went dormant, outlining its positive impact.

Hon Emeka Okafor further called on the South East Governors to come together and demand the release of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, stating that, Nnamdi Kanu is a son of Ndigbo and must not be left in detention.

MGOV. Oti Thanks Abians For Not Joining The Ongoing Hardship Protest, Promises To Fix School Road

Continued from Page 1

are not difficult, far from it. I recognize how difficult things are today, but at the same time, there is a saying that two wrongs cannot make a right. I also do know that a lot of our people live by the day, some are traders, Keke riders, barbers, and some are taxi drivers. These people put food on the table on the bases of what they earn that particular day". Governor Oti noted that disrupting the activities of those whose delay bread depends on going out daily in the name of protest will end up worsening the problem the protesters are trying to solve.

"My Plea was that we can always seat down to discuss. And, I want to thank Abia people for heeding that call. It does not mean that we don't have rights to protest but there are different ways of protesting. And, I think that the authorities had even listened to you and heard what you did not say. You know, it is easy to hear what you are saying but I can assure you that our Government has heard what you did not say". Governor Oti Stated.

The Governor also announced to the delight of the already excited congregants that School Road will soon be fixed.

"As I was coming, I saw that this road (School Road) is in a very bad condition. Very soon, the road will be fixed", Governor Oti declared.

He encourage the church members to always count their blessings and focus more on the positive things God has done for them.

Governor Oti thanked the Church for their support since 2015 that he stepped out to contest election and for the support they are giving his administration. He urged them to continue to remember him and the Government in their prayers daily.

In a Sermon titled "Living out the Christian Slogan", the Resident Pastor, Pastor Ifeanyi Chukwu Nwaogukpe said that God brought everyone to this earth for a particular purpose or mission. He emphasized that Christians are called to preach the gospel of everlasting life and the second coming of Jesus Christ as recorded in the Bible book of Mat. 28, warning the World against the impending doom and encouraging people to extend helping hands to those in need, saying that those in need are our neighbours while using the story of the Good Samaritan as recorded in the Bible to illustrate the sermon.

The officiating ministers of the Church prayed for the Governor, his entourage and the State.

Governor Oti was joined in the worship service by the Lawmaker representing Abia Central State Constituency in the Abia State House of Assembly, Hon. Ucheonye Stephen, Special Assistant to the Governor on Religious Affairs - Apostle K.C Wiper, the Mayor of Aba South - Hon. Uche Nwogu, the Abia State Acting Chairman of the Labour Party, Sir Emmanuel Nwaeze Oti and others.

Emetu Assures Azumini Ndoki of Government's Support

By Charles Oghomaya

Abia State Deputy Governor, Engr Ikechukwu Emetu, has assured the people of Azumini Ndoki community in Ukwa East L.G.A that the present administration in the state would get back whatever that belong to the state through harmonious engagement with Akwa Ibom state government.

The Deputy Governor who gave the assurance during a meeting with some leaders from the Azumini Ndoki community at the government house, Umuahia, also assured them of government support in ensuring the overall peace and security of life and property in the area.

He therefore advised the leaders and stakeholders in the Community on prompt payment of compensation to individual affected by the road

be snapped off in a second.

High Chief Iwela said that when one has a heart of appreciation, gratitude and praise to God, it

makes one to understand better, the reason for birthday celebration and not to take any birthday for granted.

The Aba based importer of textiles materials and other accessories commended the celebrant for the honesty, humility and professionalism has been associated with, in his life and vocation, which testified why many people always sought for his services in the building industry.

He said that the celebrant has come to be associated with quality works and excellent service delivery which have endeared him to many and urges Mr. Okoji to sustain these long-revealed virtues and prayed that God would sustain him with

construction in their community, as well as to ensure a peaceful resolution of their issue.

While enumerating their concern on the road construction awarded by the Akwa Ibom state government in his speech earlier, Amb. Okey Emuchay, noted that the contractor handling the project failed in conducting environment impact assessment.

Lending his voice also, one of the stakeholders from Ndoki community, High Chief Ogbo Ubani pleaded with the Governor Alex Oti to intervene in the matter through Ministry of Environment, Lands, Works and Justice for proper documentation to forestall land grabbing with their neighboring community in Akwa Ibom State.

long life, good health and more open doors.

In his words of appreciation, the celebrant who is an Item (based builder, thanked those who came to celebrate with him on the attainment of another age stating that he remains grateful to God, who bestowed him with the grace to celebrate another birthday.

Okoji assured that he would continue to use his profession to render quality service to God and mankind, further promised that this life would remain an expression of gratitude and thankfulness to Gods for this act of benevolence showed on him.

The occasion attracted the presence of many dignitaries in the areas including a cabinet Chief in the Amaba Ukwu autonomous community, High Chief Nduka Iheaka, among others.

Businessman Tasks Birthday Celebrants

By Charles Oghomaya

An Aba based businessman, High Chief David Amadu Iwela has emphasized the need for birthday celebration to be a moment of deeper reflection on the grace of God on one's life, advising celebrants to devote such occasion solely on appreciation and thankfulness to God.

Speaking at Amaba, Amaokwe Item, Bende Local Government Area, Mr. Okoyi Imo, High Chief Iwela said that birthday celebration should not

merely be for fun and entertainment but a period of appreciation of God's mercy and grace to witness the dawn of another year.

He stated that though there was nothing wrong in engaging in merriment during birthday celebration, but it should not over shadow the greater place of appreciation and thankfulness to God for the grace that saw the completion of another 365 days of circle in someone's life stating that not many enjoyed such grace as life can



Celebration OF Life

With gratitude to God for a life well spent and with total submission to the will of God Almighty, the Ndi Ugo and Ugwuji Matrilineal Families of Abam hereby announce the peaceful passing unto higher glory of their beloved matriarch, wife, mother, sister, aunt, grand mother, great-grand mother and friend



MAMA RACHEL IFEOKU
OYIDIYA IKE

(1936-2022)

Who slept in the Lord on the
31st of May 2022

AGED
86
Years

BURIAL ARRANGEMENT

CHRISTIAN WAKE

@ her residence, Ndi Asaka Compound Idima Abam

Date: Thursday, 8th August 2024

Time: 7pm till dawn

LYING IN STATE

@ her residence, Ndi Asaka Compound Idima Abam

Date: Friday 9th August 2024

Time: 9am

FUNERAL SERVICE

At Ohaeke Secondary School field by the Assemblies of God Church.

Date: Friday 9th August 2024

Time: 10am

Interment follows immediately after service at **Late Chief Jacob Ujenere Ike**
Family Residence, Ndi Asaka Compound, Ekeleogo Idima Abam,
Arochukwu Local Government Area, Abia State

Reception @ Ohaeke Secondary School Field

Signed: Chief Jones Nnanna Ike
(for the family)

News

Abia HOS Inaugurates Committee For 2022/2023 Promotion/Conversion/Confirmation Exams

By Ngozi Ndubuisi

A seven man committee for 2022 and 2023 promotion, conversion and confirmation Examinations, has been inaugurated.

Inaugurating the committee, the Chairman of the committee and the state Head of service, Dr Mrs Ngozi Obioma reminded the members that they were selected on reputation and integrity, hence the need to maintain high level of responsibilities

The head of service disclosed that the inauguration followed an approval by the Governor, Dr Alex Otti to conduct the examinations and challenged the committee to speed up the process in order to achieve the aim of setting up the committee within the time frame.

Responding on behalf of other members of the committee, a member of the committee and the permanent Secretary, Civil Service Commission Mrs Ijeoma Dim who thanked the Governor, Dr Alex Otti for the approval as well as the Head of service, Dr Mrs Ngozi Obioma for prompt inauguration of the committee, assured that they will justify the trust reposed on them.

Other members of the committee are, the Director in charge of Bureau of Establishment and pensions, Mrs Ekaette Oham, secretary, permanent Secretary ministry of Justice, Mr Paul Ogubunka, member and permanent Secretary, ministry of finance, Mrs Obi Chianakwalam, Agatha, member.

The rests are, permanent Secretary, Budget and planning, Mrs Jimonu Ugomma, member, permanent Secretary, ministry of Education, Mr Oriuwa Ikechukwu member and the Director Bureau of Administration, office of the Head of service, Mr Kingsley Ibelegbu, member.

Flooding: NEMA Tasks Traders on Proper Waste Disposal in Akwa Ibom

Lovina Emole

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has urged traders in Akwa Ibom State to adopt proper waste disposal practices to prevent flooding.

Mrs. Mmandu Aisueni, State Head of Operations, NEMA, made this call during a one-day workshop on Proper Waste Management and Flood Sensitization at Itam Market in Uyo.

Aisueni emphasized that indiscriminate waste disposal not only pollutes the environment but also blocks drainages, leading to a high risk of flooding.

"In Akwa Ibom State, we face dual challenges: effective waste management and preparation for severe flooding. Improper waste management pollutes our environment, clogs drainage systems, and exacerbates flood risks and impacts."

She stressed that proper waste management is crucial for maintaining a healthy and sustainable environment, involving waste reduction, recycling, and proper treatment.

"By adopting better waste management practices, we can reduce pollution, conserve resources, and improve public health."

"Flood preparedness and response are also crucial for minimizing flood devastation. Effective flood management requires a comprehensive approach that includes early warning systems, robust infrastructure, community education, and coordinated response efforts."

Aisueni cited the Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency's 2024 Annual Flood Outlook, which identified Eastern Obolo, Ikot Abasi, and Ibeno as high-risk areas, with 14 other local government areas at moderate risk.

She warned that some moderate-risk areas, such as Mbo, Oron, Eket, Esit Eket, and Itu, which are flood-prone, may become high-risk, and Uyo metropolis may experience flash floods due to heavy runoff and clogged drains.

The State Commissioner for Environment, Mr. Uno Uno, assured that the state government has been proactive in managing waste to tackle flooding.

Uno represented by his Head of Flood and Erosion Control, Mr. Okon Udoh urged traders to cooperate with the government by disposing of waste properly to prevent flooding and assured that the government would remain proactive in flood control and collaborate with NEMA to ensure residents' safety.



Abia State Deputy Gov, Engr Ikechukwu Emetu with the members of Abia State Cocoa Development Committee, during their visit to the deputy Gov's office, Umuahia.

NCAC DG Endorses 2024 Abia Hospitality Business Conference

Okereke Kate

The Director General of the National Council for Arts and Culture, (NCAC), Mr Obi Asika, has endorsed the first ever Abia Hospitality Business Conference and Awards 2024, organized by Oladayco Exquisite Concept and Logistics Ltd, Facilitators of Abia Tour.

The Director General of the National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC), while receiving the Abia State Chairman of the Association of Tourism Practitioners of Nigeria (ATPN) and former General Manager, Abia State Tourism Board, Amb. Onyekachi Atuloma-Loveday, in his office, proudly endorsed the Abia Hospitality Business Conference and Awards 2024, with the aim to promote Abia State's hospitality industry and drive economic growth.

During the meeting, Mr. Asika emphasized that Aba, Abia State, has been identified as a

lucrative business environment, dubbed the "Japan of Africa" and therefore, requires maximum publicity and attention to develop. He expressed his willingness to collaborate with business-minded individuals to produce made-in-Nigeria products, increasing business opportunities.

Amb. Atuloma-Loveday, highlighted the need for attention to be given to the art council and tourism sector, requesting the DG's support for the event.

She introduced the theme, "Raising the Bar: Elevating Abia's Hospitality Industry through Collaboration and Innovation" and emphasized the conference and awards' potential to revolutionize the hospitality industry, foster economic growth, and promote Abia State as a prime cultural and tourist destination.

Mr. Asika responded by acknowledging Aba's exceptional entrepreneurial spirit and expressed his willingness to support any initiative

that showcases Aba to the world and noted that arts and culture can enhance economic potential, create employment opportunities for youths and as well, promote national growth.

The highlight of the visit was the presentation of an official invitation to the DG NCAC as Special Guest of Honor for the event.

The NCAC Deputy Director for Creative Hub, Mrs. Onyeabo, further commended the organizers for successfully projecting Abia into the national map through Abia Tour.

In another development, the Chairman of the Association of Tourism Practitioners of Nigeria (ATPN) Abia State, Amb. Onyekachi Atuloma-Loveday, and Executive Director of Oladayco Exquisite Concepts and Logistics Ltd, facilitators of Abia Tour, has attended the 27th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Federation of Tourism Association of Nigeria

(FTAN) in Abuja, an event, geared towards repositioning the Tourism sector in Nigeria.

The AGM with the theme, "The Role of Private Sector in the Development of Tourism in Nigeria", brought together prominent figures in the nation's tourism and hospitality industry, including government officials, industry experts, and stakeholders, with discussions bothering around government's role in boosting the tourism sector both at the federal, state and local levels.

The meeting which provided the platform for stakeholders to share insights and recommendations on advancing Nigeria's tourism sector, had the Keynote address presented by the High Commissioner of the Republic of Botswana to Nigeria, Philadelphia Nani Kareng and a Panel of Discussion that harped on the significant impact of private sector tourism on Nigeria's development globally.

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 Igwu River Bridge, Ozu Abam: An Unavoidable Task For The Trio Of Orji Uzor Kalu, Benjamin Kalu And Ibe Okwara Osonwa.

A translated Igbo adage has it that "it is unimaginable, Unusual for a cooking pot, standing on a strong tripod, to fall to the ground".

This popular proverb is used here to introduce the story of the worrisome and dilapidated Igwu river narrow bridge on the Igwu River at Ozu Abam-along the Bende-Ohafia road from Umuahia.

Built over decades ago during the colonial rule. The very narrow bridge has become so over used by various vehicles- both heavy, medium and light uptight capacities that its strength has visibly sagged due to lack of maintenance and retrofitting. The case of the bridge is similar to the cooking pot standing on a tripod which is almost falling to the ground,

The symbolic tripod refers to the Senator representing Abia North Senatorial Zone, Distinguished Senator Orji Uzor Kalu, the Deputy Speaker, Federal House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu- representing Bende Federal Constituency and Hon. Ibe Okwara Osonwa - Member representing Arochuku/Ohafia Federal Constituency

It is expected that the trio should see the task of not allowing the Igwu Bridge to remain in the despicable, dangerous and death-trap condition, as an unavoidable and unshelvable responsibility.

The "danger-signal and archaic" bridge which is no longer seen anywhere in the world, deserves to be reconstructed.

The trio has a responsibility to save the citizens of those areas and the numerous users of the bridge from imminent deaths which will likely occur anytime or any day a car, lorry, truck or luxurious bus falls into the rivers from on top of the bridge with their passengers or occupants, as a result of the collapsed bridge.

"A stitch in time, saves nine".

It is widely known that the Umuahia-Bende-Ohafia Road along which the bridge is situated, is a federal road.

Equally known is the fact that these three political heavy weights and substantial Abians are from Abia North and are Federal Law makers.

We plead that they should claim it as their patriotic and committed responsibility to get their colleagues in their respective legislative chambers to pressurize the Federal Executive Council Members and the Presidency into having sympathy for the helpless citizens and vulnerable people of the areas concerned and cause immediate actions to be taken to reconstruct that bridge to a modern, wider and long -lasting structure.

According to Warren Buffet-an investor and philanthropist - someone is sitting in the shade today because someone else planted a tree long time ago" fixing that bridge today could be likened to planting a tree to provide a shade for others to sit under a long time to come.

The three federal lawmakers of Abia North Senatorial Zone should think along with Marcus Tullius Greco (106 BC) - a Roman philosopher who wrote: "The safety of people should be the highest law"

While nobody is suggesting that those three prominent sons of Abia North Senatorial district should use their personal funds to fix that bridge, it shall not be a wide assumption to reason that their combined and concerted efforts in pressurizing the Federal Government and the National Assembly to see the issue as a matter of urgent public importance that deserves quick response.

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.	Ihedinachi Okpara
Head, Commercial Dept.	Mary Ehumadu
Ag Head, Business Desk	Kelechi Eme-Ogidi
Editorial Consultant	Chike Emelike
ICT Consultant	Igu Omai Igu
	Prince Blessing Lazarus

Change of Name

I, formerly known, called and addressed as Miss Eme Dirichi Comfort, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. OKERE DIRICHI COMFORT. All documents bearing my former names remain valid. The general public should please take note.

MRS. OKERE DIRICHI COMFORT

Kidnapping, Ritual killing - a Menace to Humanity

Permit me to use a column in your widely read paper to discuss this societal decadence Nigerians are currently experiencing -ritual killings.

It is so disheartening and inhuman that virtually every news time on radios or television, one gets to hear and watch about ritual killings.

If it doesn't happen in the North, definitely it had happened somewhere in the South, otherwise one will hear a location in the West or East of the country where such had happened.

What wickedness can be more than this, where a person or group of people takes pleasure in sniffing life out of fellow human in such a cruel way?

I mean many will kill yet cut off parts of the body for sales. It is the height of wickedness against God and humanity, which must be abated.

Our country is a blessed one having such a uniqueness of divers cultural heritages and languages with hitherto had strengthened the unity between their citizens.

Time when Nigerians happily go to farms, travel states for trading, work in far place away from their homes without any fear is now a history, as one is not even sure of peaceful a sleep at night again. Supposed brothers, neighbors, loved ones are now agents of the devil whose assignment is to steal, kill and destroy.

It is pathetic to know that many of the perpetrator of these evil acts are guardians, teachers, siblings, friends, employees, employers even partners, which makes the victim so vulnerable because there is no iota of suspicion.

Many confessed when caught, that they sell their victims for as low as #150,000 sometimes putting blames on bad economy, but no justification whatsoever is enough to take the life of fellow human.

It won't be wrong to say that the hardship and food scarcity, the nation is currently passing through is as a result of the deadly act of incessant kidnapping and killings.

There are records of killing of farmers on their farms, kidnapping business men and women yet killing some after collecting ransoms.

Man is a social being and cannot live in isolation, it is on this note therefore that, I wish to plead with government on all levels to brace up on the nation's security policies.

There should be continuous awareness of the need for fear of God (our creator), love for one another and value for humanity. Our cultural heritage must be sustained. Awareness should on daily basis be given to pupils and students of Primary and Secondary even tertiary institutions on the need for security consciousness.

We must value life morethan money, no amount is worth the life of another person, we should not be part of kidnapping or killing.

The nation's law should also have its course on anyone or group of people caught in such act to serve as deterrents to others. **Ezewuru Adaeze Mary**

Family Matters

with
By Okechukwu ubani



I have two marriage destroyers we really have to look into that have destroyed so many marriages number one is anger.

Anger is a strong feeling of annoyance and hostility. When someone has anger management issues, it usually means that the person has trouble managing his or her anger and often act in a destructive way, rather than constructive, manner. Anger may have become a problem if: You're angry most of the time. You feel out of control or the emotion feels uncontrollable when angry. Raging anger may lead to physical abuse or violence. A person who doesn't control their temper can isolate themselves from family and friends. Some people who fly into rages have low self-esteem and use their anger as a way to manipulate others and feel powerful.

Well, the truth is that your anger is affecting your relationships negatively. You say or do hurtful things to people when angry. It is human to get angry at one time or the other but it becomes inhuman when you allow the

sense of reasoning and thereby leading you to sin. God's Word says: Be angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath (Ephesians 4:26). This means that if you are angry, do not let it lead you into sin by nursing your grudge. Don't let the day end with the anger still in you; get over it quickly. When you hold on to anger, you open the door to sin.

If you get upset about the way your partner does certain things at certain times, instead of exploding and speaking cruel words which can cause irreparable damage, control your emotions and take a walk or go to the prayer closet or walk away if possible until your anger simmers down. Anger is like a kettle of boiling water and as long as the fire is on, the water will boil faster. To cool the water, you need to turn off the source of fire, place the kettle on a cool surface and give it time to cool down. When this is done, the water that was formerly boiling will become cool enough even to drink. Some other people try to suppress anger. They get angry but they swallow it, pretending that everything is all right and put a smile on

Be careful Of Marriage Destroyers

of Coca-cola that is been shaken, once the lid is opened, the liquid rushes out in torrents. Bottling up anger is very risky, and an explosion is only a matter of time.

You can let off steam by discussing the issues at a right time or better still, pray to God about it. Tell God exactly how you feel and allow Him to speak peace to you. Anger kills!

A good example of this is found in Genesis 49:5/7 which says: Simeon and Levi are brethren... cursed by their anger, for it was fierce and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel. Also, anger is a higher level of foolishness as stated in Ecclesiastes 7:9: Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry; for anger resteth in the bosom of fools. It has the same consequences as murder. Anger must be dealt with, if you want to avoid the shame that division and

scattering brings to a family. Kill that anger spirit know if you really want to enjoy a healthy relationship with your partner.

Another killer of marriage is BITTERNESS.

What does the Bible say about bitterness? Bitterness is defined as anger and disappointment at being treated unfairly. It is synonymous with resentment and envy. One of the most well-known stories of bitterness in the Bible is the archetypal tale of Cain and Abel. I think the "root of bitterness" grows in the soil of hurt that has not been properly dealt with. This "root of bitterness" produces the fruit of bitterness, because every root has fruit. There is a contagion about being a bitter person. There are physical consequences: emotional and psychological. General bitterness can be defined as a feeling of anger and unhappiness.

In a family environment Bitterness starts from a very little thing that might have caused hurt by your spouse or any member of your family and you refuse to forgive and forget. Every time you remember the incident, you are hurt all over again. Watch it! That is a root of bitterness springing up gradually.

It will eventually lead to trouble if it is not nipped in the bud. The Word says: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled (Hebrews 12:15).

Once bitterness gains access into your heart, it will magnify itself and begin to dominate you. You lose your rest to troubles, malice and disagreements. For instance, if you are bitter against your partner when he or she is in the sitting room, you will want to be in the bedroom; there is usually no rest within you.

Bitterness blocks every access to God's blessings upon you and your family. It seeks to steal and frustrate the grace of God from you. It is an unholy act that rubs you of God's holy presence and usually, has the price as unforgiveness.

The Word of God says: Let all bitterness... be put away from you, with all malice (Ephesians 4:31). To do this, you must forgive those who have offended you, forgive

you live a peaceful and burden-free life. The principle of instant forgiveness has helped married people a great deal maybe if you have having a bitterness against your husband or wife please forgive and free yourself. Some said the other day on a conference I was privilege to attend, my husband and I practice forgiveness, immediate forgiveness and it has paid off for us in our marriage.

There was a lady who after a decade of marriage decided that her marriage was a thorn in her flesh. She moved out of her home and filed for a divorce. However, in the process she got born again and after reading my book on forgive, and some other anointed books, she discovered she had been living in self-righteousness, bitterness and unforgiveness towards her husband.

After this discovery she forgave him and God miraculously healed her marriage. In her own words when she was giving the testimony in Church, she is having a honeymoon at the Time she gave the testimony. Honour and joy were restored once more to her marriage because of forgiveness.

Anger and bitterness are little things that destroy marriage, home and family faster than you know it and the first person to seek help from is God.

You can let off steam by discussing the issues at a right time or better still, pray to God about it.

Ambassador Woman

with
By Ihuoma Egbeogu.

Sexual dissatisfaction is described as a state of irritation, agitation or stress resulting from sexual inactivity or dissatisfaction.

It involves a psychological or biological response to having an unsatisfied sexual desire. It is a very common experience that affects people irrespective of their age, gender, feelings that could happen to a person at one point or the other.

However, the agony of sexual dissatisfaction in women is usually not glaring. A woman under such torture most times pretends that all is well while dying within. In a seminar where women had the opportunity to express their problems, I gathered the opinion of several women who happened to suffer this pain of sexual dissatisfaction. Most women complained that their husbands at the early stage of their marriage satisfied them well. But over time it has drastically dwindled.

These women expressed so much concern because they do not have an option but to live with this agony. Most

often, when there is a discrepancy in the amount and quality of sexual activity a person seems to have, when compared to what they desire, automatically sexual dissatisfaction sets in.

However, sexual dissatisfaction can be triggered by so many factors. It could be caused by where there are set boundaries or restrictions in a relationship. Perhaps a religion that prevents engaging in the desired sexual activity. These restrictions would be very detrimental for a healthy relationship.

Furthermore, sexual incompatible choices in partners due to limitations associated to geographic location, socioeconomic status, or ethical culture or religious community are

some of the causes of sexual dissatisfaction in women.

Most often, when the libido of a partner doesn't correspond with that of the partner, sexual dissatisfaction sets in.

In addition, partners rejection of sexual advances

The Agony Of Sexual Dissatisfaction In Women

for personal reasons would lead to sexual dissatisfaction. This rejection could be triggered by mood swings, stress, health challenges and soon.

Sometimes cultural norms or roles associated in choosing a partner that may contradict one's sexual preference is a source of sexual dissatisfaction. This could be likened to your partner not being accepted by the family and community. In extreme cases, a total rejection of the person by the community involved because of choosing a partner that was rejected by the family or a partner that doesn't fit into a cultural norm.

Furthermore, engaging a couple's counselor or sex therapist could also help curb sexual dissatisfaction

At one point or the other, women tend to pretend for obvious reasons and deny or suppress their sexual desires. This ends up in sexual dissatisfaction.

While at other times a woman would be horny and desire for sex, but this desire is unfulfilled, sexual dissatisfaction occurs.

Moreso, a woman maybe sexually aroused when the partner is unavailable as a result of distance or incapacitated. In such a situation, the agony of sexual dissatisfaction is usually unimaginable.

Finally, the culmination of the causes of sexual

dissatisfaction is pre-mature ejaculation or delayed ejaculation.

This is a major cause of sexual dissatisfaction in women. In an interview a woman who pleaded anonymity lamented bitterly about the husband's inability to satisfy her as a result of premature ejaculation. The agony she lamented is unquantifiable.

There are some remedies in curbing sexual dissatisfaction in women.

Information they say is power. When one is informed about how to satisfy a woman, sexual dissatisfaction is midway solved. Though sexual dissatisfaction could be hard to deal with but it would be relieved or minimized. Since lack of good sex information often leads to feeling not sexually satisfied in a relationship, doing a research and learning is a great way to improve sexual satisfaction.

Reading erotic books can help fill in missing pieces about sexual functioning. Perhaps reading things that resonate when shared with a partner will help curb sexual dissatisfaction.

Another way of curbing sexual dissatisfaction is by talking frankly with your

partner. However, it is expected you talk about your sexual desires and explore what has actually stopped you from acting on them. By so doing, these normalizes sexuality in ways that can increase comfort, intimacy, awareness, perspective and willingness to ask for what you want and enquire what your partner wants as well.

Furthermore, engaging a couple's counselor or sex therapist could also help curb sexual dissatisfaction.

A crucial study of each other's sexual language and attachment styles is another way of curbing sexual dissatisfaction. When you under study these sexual languages, your sexual desires are bound to be attained.

In conclusion, sexual frustration or dissatisfaction can be hard to deal with but when the aforementioned ways of curbing it is critically adhered to, it is reduced to the barest minimum. Since unmanaged sexual dissatisfaction can lead to conflict within yourself and your relationship, it is imperative that men should take cognizance of this impending problem in their relationship to avoid divorce or worse still, cheating partners to attain satisfaction.

Features

Giving Umuahia A Facelift As A State Capital: The Abia House Of Assembly Approach

By Igu Omai Igu

Prior to May 29, 2023 when Dr. Alex Chioma Otti (OFR) was inaugurated as the Governor of Abia State, the sanitary profile of the two major urban areas of the state - Aba and Umuahia - was too poor and unwholesome to be talked about.

The picture in Umuahia, the state capital, was so horrible and disappointing to the extent that refuse almost took over the entire city with every major road/street adorned with different sizes and dimensions of refuse mountains.

The situation of the Umuahia city centre called "Isigate" was something else. Isigate which stretches from where we used to call "Alwell Chemist" down to Umuwaya road/Lagos street junction and across the railway line from behind Aba motor park, across Warri street to Lagos street and Owerri Road, was so dirty and messed up by street traders who have defied all measures to remove them from there, to the extent that an Anambra State - born billionaire and oil mogul, Chief Arthur Eze, who visited Abia State during the administration of Chief T.A. Orji (Ochendo) in September, 2014, could not hide his discomfort and also disgust at the sites of refuse mountains that greeted him.

According to Arthur Eze, "Abia States Stinks", right from Abia Tower of the Enugu -Port Harcourt express way in Umuahia, the rots hit you. Abia State is now the dirtiest state in the country". This ugly state of affairs spanned through Ochendo and Okezie Ikpeazu administrations.

That was why on assumption of office as Governor of the state, Dr. Otti got determined to erase that memory from the psyche of the people and visitors to Abia State by declaring a state of emergency on sanitation and waste disposal - and started clearing all the stinking refuse sites in Aba and Umuahia because he was thinking along with Lailah Akita (1982, a Ghanaian Author) who said "The state of our surroundings tells the conditions of our souls", - stressing that we have a responsibility to keep our homes, surroundings and cities clean".

Also, worried by this ugly scenario, the State House of Assembly, earlier this month of July, took the bull by the horn by passing a Resolution to call on the state government to take urgent steps to clean up the city centre of the state capital popularly known as "isigate" because the area has become

an eyesore and unbefitting of a state capital.

The Lawmakers called on government to do this by building a modern market facility in Umuahia and relocate all the traders at Isigate and all markets of the adjoining streets.

This call came on the heels of a Resolution of the House of from motion of urgent matter of economic



Abia House Of Assembly

importance, moved by Hon. Anthony Chinasa (member representing Umuahia Central State Constituency in the House of Assembly).

In the Resolution, the Hon. members stressed the need for Abia State government to expedite actions on building a new market it had earlier on proposed to be sited at Afara-Ukwu Ibeku, in order to create a conducive business environment for traders in Umuahia and their clients in and outside the state.

The Resolution went ahead to elaborate on the advantages of timely completion of the new market project and relocation of the traders at the present Isigate and all the adjoining roads and streets in Umuahia.

According to the mover of the motion - Hon. Chinasa, the proposed new market and the subsequent relocation of the traders will not only boost the revenue base of the state, it will decongest both vehicle and human traffic at that city centre and enhance the aesthetic profile of the area.

Causing a new marked facility to come into existence in Umuahia, away from the already over-crowded city centre, will not only bring further expansion to the state capital, but will also automatically lead to new

development areas and create new business for property developers and agents.

Relocating the traders at Isigate has become more desirable and more demanding now that Governor Alex Otti's government is working assiduously to give the state capital city a laudable face-lift-starting with the expansion of major roads at the entry

amenities and effecting the relocation of the Ishigate traders as early as possible - thus allowing government to utilize the vacated areas of the Ishigate for projects that can really and visibly beautify the state capital.

The Governor, as far as the Afara-Ukwu modern market is concerned, should be guided by the writings of George Herbert (1593-1633) - an English Poet, who wrote "Do not wait, the time will never be just right". Start where you stand and work with whatever tools you may have at your command, and better tools will be found as you go along".

Although there shall be resistance, oppositions and sabotage from the traders (most likely sponsored and spearheaded by opposition parties in the state) the Governor's resilience in getting his biddings done, will finally overcome in accordance with the writings of Robert Jordan (1948 - 2001, an American Author) thus "The Oak fought the wind and was broken, the willow bent when it must and survived". The Governor should strike the iron when it is hot, to bend or shape it. Now is the time for the new market and relocation of the Ishigate traders project to be actualized.

In favour of the traders, the lawmaker, Hon. Anthony Chinasa, assured them that the relocation was even going to be of a greater advantage to them. According to him, the new market facility will enlarge the business spaces available to them, make room for expansion, create opportunities for the diversity and promote more efficient shopping experience that will even lead to increase in their sales and business growth.

It is on the above premise that I make bold to urge the traders to embrace the relocation any time it comes, because according to Conor Obert (1980, an American singer and song writer) "movement has been one of the few constants of life and I always feel great sense of admission when I set off to a new place".

Similarly, Caroline Leavit, an American Author stated that "everyone thinks that a new place or new identity and a location will jump start a new life". Definitely, I can tell anybody that when the traders at Ishigate will have relocated to the modern market, they will be coming back to pay homage to the Governor and the state House of Assembly for coming alive with the modern market and relocation project.

Dualization or multiplication of entry roads to the Abia State capital can be stepped down and made the Governor's third year project in this first 4 year tenure to accommodate the building of the modern market at Afara - Ukwu, equipping it with modern



ABIA STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
OFFICE OF THE HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER
MINISTRY OF POWER AND PUBLIC UTILITIES
P.M.B 7226 UMUAHIA, ABIA STATE

Our Ref: MPU/AD/0.13/II/

Date: 6th August, 2024

The Government of Abia State through Ministry of Power and Public Utilities Umuahia, is inviting suitable qualified original equipment manufacturers of distribution transformers Companies to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) tender as per the following listed conditions of supply.

SCOPE OF THE TENDER:

Interested tenderers are invited for the design, manufacture, testing and supply of 11/0.415 Kilovolt and 33/0.415 Kilovolt Oil Immersed Copper winding outdoor type (Directly under the sun) transformers to be supplied complete with all necessary fittings, accessories off - load tap changer, insulating oil and spare parts etc.

The transformer is to be hermetically sealed (without conservator tank) bolted cover with bushing insulators on both HT and LT side for the following ratings: 300KVA and 500KVA. For > 1000KVA should be plug in type (according to the tender requirements); a valid ISO 9001 Certificate required.

S/N	TRANSFORMER CAPACITY	UOM/ UNIT	QTY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
1.	300KVA, 11/0.415KV Distribution Transformer 100% Copper Winding		10		
2.	300KVA, 33/0.415KV Distribution Transformer 100% Copper Winding		10		
3.	500KVA, 11/ 415KV Distribution Transformer 100% Copper Winding		20		
4.	500KVA, 33/0.415KV Distribution Transformer 100% Copper Winding		10		
5.	1MVA/10, 11/0.415KV Transformer 100% Copper Winding		1		

GENERAL REQUIREMENT: Standards IEC 60296

The Transformers shall be of first-class quality and design for continuous satisfactory operation as continuity of supply is of prime consideration. The design shall allow all necessary precaution for the safety of operation and maintenance personnel. The transformers shall operate satisfactorily under variations of load voltage or short circuit or other conditions which may occur on the system provided that these variations are within the assigned rating of accidental short circuit.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL / EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

All expression of interest must be made by any manufacturing companies on payment of non-refundable fee and submit evidence of payment to the Planning Research and Statistics Department of Ministry of Power and Public Utilities Umuahia, Abia State.

All proposals must be received by the office of Head of Planning, Ministry of Power and Public Utilities, Umuahia, Abia State no later than 2:00pm on the 16th day of August, 2024.

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

- All interested manufacturing companies must submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) in two (2) hard copies with full contact information of the company profile in Nigeria.
- Evidence of payment of tax for 3 years or tax clearance certificate.
- Evidence of registration with CAC and registration with Abia State Ministry of Power and Public Utilities.
- Proforma Invoice indicating cost, quantity and capacity of transformer.
- The Manufacturers Company must have a function transformer servicing workshop in Nigeria.

MODE OF TENDERING

- Applications must be addressed to the Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Power and Public Utilities PMB 7226 Umuahia, Abia State.
- The application should bear the reference number of this publication and submitted under seal to reach the Ministry's Planning, Research and Statistics Department within 14days from the date of this letter.

ENGR. IKECHUKWU MONDAY
Honourable Commissioner
Power and Public Utilities

FOCUS

Umahi And The Lagos- Calabar Coastal Highway: A Peoples' Beaming Flag From The High Mountains

By Dr Igwe Oscar Obasi.

In recent times, there has been countless debates and touchy discussions on the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway for so many reasons. These concerns which basically arose with respect to the amount the project will gulp to its holistic relevance, the attendant demolitions and loss of jobs and revenue to environmental disruption, etc are however not unexpected.

The present Government must have ever before going into this audacious and ambitious project, considered all these very significant variables. Some high-profile edifices such as the Landmark Beach Resort and others billed to be affected by the project equally heightened the discussions around this project with divergent trajectories of positions across the country. The hullabaloo also reverberated in certain uncomely comments from certain quarters, persons and interest groups.

However, no major milestone project in the mould of this Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway, will come so silently, so unannounced and so uncelebrated (abeit divergently) in a multi-faceted and rapidly dynamic country like Nigeria. Therefore, this project is undeniably receiving the attention deserving of its magnitude and possible potentials.

A studied analysis of this beaming project touted to consume some amounts in the neighborhood of N15 trillion naira, reveals some stunning possibilities for the nation and its global relevance.

Traversing through 9 states in the country, the project is a screaming announcement of a people in so many respects. The truth is that countries that have done world-class projects in any area of their economy, do so consciously, conscientiously, deliberately and deterministically, investing monumental resources into it. That is the story behind some mind-rendering infrastructure in certain countries such as UAE, USA, China, UK, Germany etc. The truth is that such

projects are not for the faint-hearted and the mediocre. It takes a lion-heart. Therefore, if Nigeria must announce itself in the global space in 'rocket science' infrastructural development, this Lagos-Calabar Coaster Highway is a million times worth the candle.

It is a barefaced entrance of a people in world-class infrastructural ingenuity and profiling. This project alone which is a curtain-raiser will headline Nigeria in no uncertain terms in cutting-edge road infrastructure and hospitality development across the globe.

The multiplier effect of this project is unimaginable, unquantifiable and largely unfathomable for a country in dire need of vibrant diversification of its economic matrixes.

Apart of the unique transport system, the project will open

However, no major milestone project in the mould of this Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway, will come so silently, so unannounced and so uncelebrated (abeit divergently) in a multi-faceted and rapidly dynamic country like Nigeria.

up the sea side for all manner of businesses ranging from beach hotels and resorts, holiday inns, recreation centers, sea side estates and factories, fish port corridors as well as synergizing the hinterlands around the sea for commercialization and urbanization. It equally opens a link to other neighbouring countries such as Cameroun and so on. The comely ambiance of the sea scenery is soothing and healing for the mind and soul of the society.

Tourism in Nigeria will surely take a turn as a result of this project because it will serve as a springboard for more FDIs (Foreign Direct Investments) and domestic investments in this sector and allied areas. Nicely and considerate enough, compensations are being extended to the affected and the project is evolving according to relevant concerns such as the adjustments to save so many ancestral homes and some critical underwater infrastructure as well as size restructuring.

This project transcends every muddy politics and sectionalism. It is a peoples' project; a peoples' new story line. With the benefit of both hindsight and foresight, this Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway will go down in living history as the most significant project of the Tinubu Administration, for so many generations to come.

The Minister of works, Engr. Dave Umahi needs no introduction when issues around exceptional milestone projects are discussed. He had inked legacies as a Governor in Ebonyi State and he is maximally poised to deliver significantly. Therefore, what he needs is the support of all key stockholders to globally "sign-post" a people via this project. He has already rolled up his sleeves and off to site. The job is on!

Dr. Igwe Oscar Obasi

Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics and Deputy Director, Centre of Excellence on Root Crop Research and Development, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike.

Opinion

Tips For Surviving Nigeria Now

By Chukwuneta Oby

My major advice to people in Nigeria right now is to find, nurture and cherish a support system. If your support system comes from family (parents, siblings or a handful of relations), you are most blessed but if not, life is also capable of giving us a family in strangers.

Have people you can lean on (emotionally or materially) in your trying times. Have people who can pray with you when you feel overwhelmed. Have people you can talk about your issues with and not feel judged. Have people you can cry to and they will wipe your tears.

Have someone you can confide in, without fearing that your story will get into the wrong ears. Have people you can be yourself (warts and all) with and not feel diminished. The times call for every man and woman to surround themselves with people who feel at home.

Nobody is growing younger and you do not have to be around people who don't have a positive bearing on your mental health.

Please note that you cannot effectively make a support system out of whom you are hardly available to. Yes, we must become that which we seek from others. Learn to be there for people you expect or wish to be there for you.

Some of us don't know how to check on friends and loved ones, except when we need something from them. That is the first mentality to do away with in these times. If you seek to be at peace with life, you must stop using people.

Make self-care a priority! People are dropping dead at an alarming rate these days and it's often because we are taking care of everything and everyone else to the total negligence and detriment of the self.

Please begin to make SELF-CARE a priority right now. When was the last time you went for a complete medical check-up? Have you started moving your body via exercise? What do you feed your body, mind and soul

these days?

I made a resolve a very long time ago to only go in the direction of what speaks positively to my mental health. And that includes socialisation, social media feeds, etc. As you get older, one bold move you should make is to guard your mental health and emotional space jealously.

Please begin now to sieve the things and people you give access to your energy. Have a relationship with God in your way.

The relationship you have with God and the way you understand Him is the most fulfilling. When you develop a personal relationship with God, you will not make a god/idol out of mere humans.

Tailor your spirituality after your values and personal convictions.

By now, we should all know that there are many ways to get to the heart of God. You can worship God through what you do for humanity. You can serve God through your deeds and intentions towards others and your community.

You can pray to God through what you subject your mind and body to.

It is all in your sincerity of heart. The sincerity of our heart is all that matters to God. So, even when you feel you have nobody to run to, you have God. And He is most able.

Live within your means. I can't preach this enough, in this era of "soft life" movement. There is nothing like a "soft life", if you do not desire a lifestyle that encourages you to leave your dignity behind.

If that "hustle" doesn't respect your body or feelings, it will not leave your soul dignified. Make lifestyle choices that can help you live easily with yourself.

It is said that "once you carry your water, you will learn the value of every drop". Don't hang your taste in

someone else's pocket. It will always put you in a moral tight corner. A lot of young people who are getting married these days are people who need to get a job and not get into marriage.

This era has witnessed unprecedented weird marital realities that leave no one in doubt of what the motive (economic survival) really is.

With mindsets that view marriage as the fastest route to economic survival, the crisis rocking the marital institution is hardly surprising. Hold a hand. Don't be so absorbed in your challenges that you don't look out for humanity. You are happier when you can afford to hold a hand in support, despite your struggles.

This is the best time to do more for humanity, in whatever capacity you can. No matter how tough your struggles are, your reality is still a paradise to someone else. Choose not to bury your head in your struggles, occasionally, look up in search of a hand to hold!

Live within your means. I can't preach this enough, in this era of "soft life" movement. There is nothing like a "soft life", if you do not desire a lifestyle that encourages you to leave your dignity behind.

Photo Speak



President/Founder, African Rebirth Vision, Engr Chuka Nwokoro with Abia State Gov, Dr Alex Otti, during the visit to the Gov in his Nvosi home, Isiala Ngwa South LGA of Abia State.



Gov Alex Otti of Abia State (3rd right) poses with a delegation of West India Asian Cable Company (WIACC), a Broadband Company led and introduced to the State by the General Overseer of Omega Ministries, HRM, Apostle Chibuzo Chinyere (middle), Regional Director of the Company, Mr. Darren Bedford (2nd right) and some Traditional Rulers of Ukwa West LGA, during their visit to the Gov in his Nvosi, Isiala Ngwa South LGA of Abia State.



Abia State Gov, Alex Otti (2nd left), With MD of Inner Galaxy Steel, Company Ukwa West during their visit to the Gov in his Nvosi, Isiala Ngwa home.



Management of the Inner Galaxy Company at Nvosi, Isiala Ngwa, Abia State.



Abia SSG, Prof Kenneth Kalu poses with the Executive Members of Youth Wing of CAN, South East, during their visit to the SSG at Govt house, Umuahia, Abia State



Chief of Staff to Abia Gov, Pastor Caleb Ajagba (middle), Abia Chapter Chairman, Mathematical Association of Nigeria (MAN), Dr Nnenna Kalu Uka (3rd left), Special Adviser to the Abia Gov on Education, Dr Kenekwun Nwosu (3rd right) and others, during their visit to the Chief of Staff at Govt house, Umuahia.



Abia Deputy Gov, Engr. Ikechukwu Emetu (middle), poses with Stakeholders in National Commission For Refugees, Migration and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRM), during a three day Zonal Capacity Building /Workshop for the Review of 2015 NCFRM in Emgu.



Gov Alex Otti of Abia State (middle) with the delegation of MUNEK Nig Ltd and some members of Abia State Executive Members, during the recent visit to Abia State Gov in his Nvosi, Isiala Ngwa South LGA of Abia State

Photo Speak



President Tinubu (2 right), Minister of State, Labour and Productivity, Hon. Nkiruka Onyejeocha (1s right), President, NLC, Comr. Joe Ajaero (2nd left) and TUC Chairman, Comr Festus Osifo (1st left), during the last meeting btw FG and NLC at Presidential Villa, Abuja.



Gov Otti of Abia handing over the C of O to FG for the establishment of a Federal College of Education Umuahia North, Abia State.



L-R: Abia Deputy Gov, Engr Ikechukwu Emetu, Rt. Hon. Emmanuel Emeruwa, Speaker, Abia House of Assembly, Comm. for Education, Abia State, Prof Ene Uche Ene and her Lands and Housing counterpart, Chaka Chukwumerije, official hand over of the C of O to FG for the establishment of a Federal College of Education Umuahia North, Abia State.



The MD, Inner Galaxy Company, Ukwu West (2nd left), a Traditional Ruler from Ukwu West LGA and others at a meeting with Governor Otti and Top Management of the Inner Galaxy Company at Nvosi, Isiala Ngwa, Abia State.



Gov Otti of Abia (middle) in a group photograph with some members of his Cabinet and Representatives of the Federal Govt, during the official hand over of the C of O for the establishment of the College of Education, Umuahia North, Abia State.



Deputy Gov, Bayelsa State, Sen. Lawrence Ewhrudjakpo (middle), Bayelsa, NULGE President, Thankgod Singer (7th left) and other members of State NULGE Executives during their visit to the deputy Gov in his office in Yenegwa.



Hon. Amaobi Ogah, Member Repr. Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Fed. Constit (Middle), Chief Ray I. Nkendirin, former Director of Operations, DSS Hyfers, President, Isuikwuato Consultative Forum (4th left) and others, during their visit to Hon. Ogah in his Abuja office.



Deputy Speaker, Abia State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Austin Nmerigini (middle) and Hon Iheanacho Obioma, Special Adviser to Abia Gov on Political Affairs.



Our advert rates are:

**For Further Enquiries
08107148390**

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



PUBLISHED BY:

Abia Newspapers & Publishing Corporation

Nnamdi Azikiwe Secretariat Road, Government Station Layout, Umuahia

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

News

Gov Otti's Strategic Climate Change Initiatives Propelled Abia To National Recognition Aide

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

The Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Due Process and Public Procurement, Dr Oluebube Chukwu has commended Governor Alex Otti's administration's climate change initiatives, which secured Abia State the 8th position among the 36 states in the national climate change governance ranking.

Dr Chukwu who gave the commendation while speaking to Journalists in his Office at Government House Umuahia, noted that the States ranking is based on the state government's initiatives such as the development of climate change policies, online media visibility, and the state's participation in national climate change program among others.

The Governor aide emphasized that the paradigm shift under the Governor Otti's administration has resulted in substantial progress and recognition of Abia state which has before now languished at the bottom of various governance and development indices often ranking 36 out of 36 states.

"Abia State's rise in the climate change governance ranking is a testament to the concerted efforts and strategic planning of the current administration.

"It underscores the effective leadership initiatives of Governor Alex Otti and also highlights the state's commitment to addressing climate change and promoting environmental sustainability", Dr Chukwu stated.

The Governor's Aide who also commended the business-friendly Initiatives of the state government, said that the recently inaugurated Council on the Ease of Doing Business would enhance Abia state's position as a preferred investment destination.

He noted that Governor Otti is reforming the business regulatory environment in Abia to provide optimal service to investors and enable the state take it's rightful place as a choice destination for business adding that the state has continued to advance under the present administration.

Abia State Police Command, Arrests, Parades 162 Suspects.

By Charles Ogbonnaya

Abia State Police Command has paraded 142 male and 20 female suspects recently arrested during its operations in the State for various crimes ranging from, armed robbery, kidnapping, vandalism of Government properties, child trafficking, rape, and defilement among others

The Commissioner of Police, Kenechukwu Onwuemeli, who paraded the suspects before newsmen at the Commands headquarters Umuahia, said most of the suspects and cases had been charged to Court to enable quick dispensation of justice

The Commissioner who spoke through the Public relations Officer, ASP Maureen Chinaka said various exhibits recovered include; 16 locally made firearms of different specifications, 13 live cartridges, 7 vehicles and motorcycles, railroad sleepers, substances suspected to be illicit drugs, mobile phones among others, including 6 trafficked Children and 4 Kidnapped Victims were successfully rescued.

The Commissioner urged the public to continue to supporting the Commands efforts in maintaining peace and security in the State.

Some of the suspects who were arrested by the Police, according to the PPRO, include Innocent Nwaeze (29 years) Uchenna Nwoko(32 years) Uzoma Erondo (44 years) Chinyere Nwaja (45 years) and Benjamin Ukaegbu (62 years).

Others are Kingsley Emmanuel (22 years) Atuloma Emmanuel (20 years) among others.

One of the suspected motorcycle thief who identified himself as Amadikwa Chigozie from Imo state but resident in Aba, confessed his participation in the theft of a motorcycle but pleaded for forgiveness.



Gov Alex Otti of Abia (middle), Public Relations Officer, Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria, CIBN, Mr Kelechi Adiele (5th right), Chairman, Bankers Committee, Abia State, Lady Roseline Chinenye Ogalabu (5th left) and others, during their visit to the Gov in his Nvosi Isiala Ngwa South LGA of Abia State

We Will Build A New Govt House Befitting For Abia People -Gov Otti

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, has assured Abian's that plans are underway to rebuild the Government House by the end of the year, promising that befitting structures would be erected for the people of the state.

Governor Otti disclosed this at the Arochukwu Local Government Council Headquarters while commissioning some projects executed by the Council's Mayor.

The Governor who emphasized his commitment to transforming the state seat of power to a befitting edifice for government

operations, explained that the dilapidated state of structures at Government House has prevented him from operating there.

"The story is everywhere in Abia that I am not operating from the government house in Umuahia because there's no government house, everywhere is dilapidated and decayed.

"The option would have been to use the money I used to pay pensioners and begin to retrofit the government House but I felt that we could operate from anywhere while doing the most important thing first.

"I am proud to report that before the end of this year, we are going to break down those dilapidated

buildings and we'll put up structures that are befitting for our people who are enlightened like Abia people", the Governor stated.

He further reiterated his administration's commitment to high standards in all projects including road construction, school renovations, and healthcare delivery.

"It's either they are done to the best and highest standards or we won't do them at all. We don't cut corners", Otti asserted

Governor Otti while commending the Arochukwu Council Mayor for the projects executed, noted that they align with his

administrations vision for Abia state.

In his speech, the Mayor of Arochukwu, Joe Ezeoro highlighted the significant improvements made at the council headquarters, attributing the success to Governor Otti's unwavering support to the council.

He recalled that upon assumption of office, the council headquarters was in a dilapidated state hence the subsequent reconstruction efforts undertaken to address the issues.

The event attracted many dignitaries including Member representing Arochukwu state constituency, Hon. Uchenna Okoro,

Eze Aro of Arochukwu, Dr. Eberechukwu Kanu Oji among others.

Abia State Commits To Fostering Business Friendly Environment Investors

By Blessing Anientwe

The Honourable Commissioner for Trade, Commerce, and Industry, Dr. Chimezie Isaac Ukaegbu, has emphasized the Abia State government's commitment in fostering a business-friendly environment and attracting investors.

During a recent meeting with representatives from MTN Nigeria in his office, Dr. Ukaegbu highlighted the significant role of investments in driving state developments, creating employment opportunities, reducing crime, and increasing the state's internally generated revenue.

He affirmed the Otti-led administration's dedication to establishing the necessary infrastructure to attract and sustain investments.

Dr. Chimezie revealed that the administration is focused on creating a conducive environment for businesses to thrive. He added that there are numerous investment opportunities in Abia State, and they are committed to supporting investors to maximize these opportunities.

In his presentation, the MTN Nigeria's Regional

Manager, Mr. McDaniels Enwemuche, presented MTN's mobile money. (MOMO) financial package as a tool for revenue collection, highlighting MTN Nigeria's evolution from a telecommunications company to a comprehensive technology provider. He noted that Abia State, as the commercial hub of West Africa, can leverage on their technology to implement a transparent and accessible revenue generation and collection system, making it easier to track financial transactions across various

industries."

Mr. Enwemuche also proposed collaboration with the state government to monitor loans and grants for empowerment, audit fund disbursements, and provide essential documentation for financial reconciliation.

Contributing, the MTN Regional Admin Operational Services representative, Oluchi Akobundu, commended the administration's efforts, noting the significant progress and development in the state. She emphasized that when unique aspects of the state are developed, it adds tremendous value.

News

Gov Otti Pledges Support For Industry Growth As MUNECA Nigeria Plans Flour Mill, Ceramic Industry In Abia

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, has assured investors of his administration's unwavering support to establish industries for the state's development.

Governor Otti gave the assurance when he received in audience a delegation from MUNECA Nigeria Limited who paid him a business visit.

He congratulated the delegation on their initiative to contribute to Abia's growth and emphasized his administration's commitment to creating a conducive business environment.

The essence of governance is to create an enabling environment for businesses to flourish, industries to be set up, and the social welfare of the people to be enhanced.

Everything we are doing can, in one way or another, be attributed to these goals," he stated.

He further emphasized the administration's dedication to maintaining safety and security, providing infrastructure, and ensuring the welfare of the populace to attract and sustain investments.

"We will continue to work hard to make this place safe and secure, provide infrastructure, and ensure that the welfare of our people occupies a pride of place for investments like this to come in", he added.

Governor Otti highlighted the significance of the proposed flour mill and ceramic industry, noting their potential to provide employment opportunities and boost the state's revenue.

"We are excited about having these two industries coming to our State. It's important for job creation and productivity, as the gross domestic product of the state would improve with such activities," he stressed.

Earlier in his speech, the coordinator of MUNECA Nigeria Limited and CEO, Mr. Moses Nwankpa, revealed plans to establish a world-class flour mill and ceramic industry in Ovungwu, Isialangwa South LGA.

Nwankpa disclosed that they have acquired sufficient land for the factories and secured funding sources from Florida, United States, but require government support in the form of a Comfort Letter to access the funds.

He revealed that the raw materials for the factories would be sourced locally, and the establishments would create jobs for about six thousand people in the state.

Contributing, the Process Engineer of the company, Uzoma Collins, affirmed the feasibility of the flour mill and ceramic industry in Abia and solicited government support from the construction to production stages, assuring that the industries would engage the youth in productive ventures.



Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti,



Alex Otti of Abia State (middle), VC, ABSU, Prof Onyemachi Ogbulu (7th right), Abia SSG, Prof Kenneth Kalu, (9th left), The Bursar, Members of the University Senate and others as Gov Alex Otti met with the Mgt and Members of the Senate of Abia State University (ABSU) at his Country home, Nvosi in Isialangwa South LGA to resolve all pending issues regarding verification and payment of salary to the staff of the University.

Soil Scientist, Decries Poor Soils In South-East, Advocates For Green Farming

By Chukwuemeka Egejuru

A Professor of Soil Science in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike (MOUUAU) Abia state, Prof. Mabel Ifeoma Onwuka has expressed worries over poor soils in the southeast region, advocating for proactive measures to mitigate looming food insecurity.

The Director, Centre for Gender Youth and Child Development, MOUUAU disclosed this during a community outreach in Umuajata Olokoro, Umuahia South Local Government Area (LGA), Abia state, organized in collaboration with Peri-Urban Agriculture Unit of National Roots Crops Research Institute (NRCRI) Umudike, maintained that some cultural practices are detrimental to soil fertility.

She identified bush burning, population pressure, climate change, erosion, indiscriminate use of fertilizers, among others as major factors that affects the soil negatively and leads to poor yields.

She warned farmers to avoid planting crops at waste dump sites, explaining that the presence of heavy metals like; mercury (Hg), lead (Pb), chromium (Cr), thallium (Tl), among others would be absorbed by crops and may lead to cancer and other health conditions.

Prof. Onwuka also decried the recent exponential increase in the price of sundry food items, enjoining Nigerians to grow some of the crops they consume, hence, the need for the home garden training.

The Agricultural expert noted that growing one's crops is a way of saving money and also enjoying fresh crops organically produced at home.

She added that the

smallest backyard space can produce good amount of vegetables, fruits, herbs among others at the least expense.

Onwuka also demonstrated to the women Biochar Production and how to convert their domestic and agricultural waste into organic fertilizer.

She urged Abia farmers to take advantage of MOUUAU community services outreaches to boost food production.

Prof. Onwuka who lamented the inability of the rural women to access fertilizers, said that it would ensure availability of soil inputs to enhance quality and quantity food for their households.

The founder, Hope for Farmers, Women and Girls Initiative (HOFWGI), said that the essence of the rural outreach to farmers was to

extend new research innovations to farmers in order to boost food production in Abia and Nigeria at large.

In her words: "It is a way of giving back to the society, mentor rural farmers, demonstrate biochar production and improve soil fertility and boost food production among others".

She explained that Biochar is a solid carbon-rich product produced from biomass of agricultural crop residues, municipal solid wastes, through the pyrolysis process that involves thermal decomposition in a limited oxygen environment.

Contributing, a lecturer in the university, Dr. Blessing Ada Ahamufule, urged women to take farming very seriously as a way of supporting their households, adding that global food crisis looms.

In their vote of thanks, one of the beneficiaries, Mrs. Susan Nwachukwu thanked Prof. Onwuka, MOUUAU and NRCRI for organizing the training for them, promising that they would put all the knowledge gained into good use.

They urged Prof. Onwuka and MOUUAU to sustain the training, adding that it will impart positively on their farming activities and output.

Highpoints of the event were donation of Biochar pyrolysis unit, free distribution of organic fertilizers, and planting materials to farmers among others.

The Dean, College of Food Science and Technology, Prof. Nneoma Elechi Obasi, NRCRI team, led by the Head, Peri-Urban Agriculture Unit, Dr. Helen Nkoli Anyaegbunam, Mrs. Ebele Grace Nawuba and other women groups, were present at the event.

Abia SSG Tasks Youth Body to Be Vanguard of Positive Change

By Ngozi Ndubuisi

Youths have been called upon as future leaders and change makers of society to engage in meaningful ventures that are capable of developing them and the society.

The secretary to the State Government Prof. Kenneth Kalu who made the call when he received in audience, the executive members of the Youth wing Christian Association of Nigeria, South East Zone who paid him a courtesy visit at his office decried the high rate of social vices being witnessed in our society today especially by the youth, pointing out that it is crucial for the youths to

embrace their role as vanguard of positive change.

Prof Kalu enjoined them as young individuals, to use their God given potentials to shape the future and drive positive change in their domain. He admonished them to join hands with the newly created state orientation Agency in their fight to promote sanity in the state.

He explained that the present administration in her change mantra is working hard to ensure that the citizens have a positive mindset towards transforming the state.

The SSG who further made it clear that the

church has a roles for effective governance, challenged the group to lead by example, leave lasting legacies that will inspire generations to come and work collaboratively towards a better future for the good of all, and assured them of government's support to their upcoming inauguration scheduled to hold soon in the state.

In his speech, the zonal chairman CAN South East, Prince Gabriel Kalu said they came to present the newly elected Executive members of the Youth wing of CAN, south East zone to the SSG as well as intimate him of their forthcoming inauguration and solicited for Government's support.

Creative Writers Hangout

The Hot Snow (4)

By Joseph Jacob and Mercy Emeh

Eze got to the office on Tuesday a different man. A glance at him showed a distressed man. Amadi, who shared the same office with him could not help, but ask why.

Eze told him about his once in a life time opportunity and how money was going to be the hindrance.

"I know someone, who can lend you as much as ten million naira today, as long as you can give him corresponding collateral," Amadi said.

"Like what and what will he accept as collateral?"

"A parcel of land or a building."

"The land I have is a family land. We have not shared our inheritance," he paused thoughtfully, "What if I use my four bedroom bungalow?"

"He will accept it." Amadi said encouragingly.

"Can we see him today?" Eze asked as smile of hope crossed his face.

"Chief Odemba's office is at Wetheral Road."

"Can we go now, since our boss is not around?" Eze asked.

"Why not? Let's go."

Eze joined Amadi in his red Volkswagen gulf car and after ten minutes they stopped before a white four storey building and parked between a white Mercedes 130 and a dark blue jeep.

They climbed the staircase to the last floor. A huge mahogany door faced them. On the door was a tag 'Chief Odemba and Sons'. Amadi tapped, opened and they went in.

A young lady in her late twenties, sitting behind a desk was hitting the keyboard of a desktop computer with dexterity.

"Good morning sir, what can we do for you?" She asked.

"We want to see chief," Amadi replied.

"Please, take your seats, he's with some visitors. He will attend to you in five minutes time," the lady said.

Amadi and Eze sat on the sofa arranged at the right hand side of the lady's table just beside the carved door that lead to Chief Odemba's office.

True to the lady's words, five minutes later the door swung open and three hefty women left the office.

The lady went into Chief's office and informed him of the presence of Amadi and Eze.

The bald headed, small statured chief Ochemba looked at her for a while tapping his table thoughtfully, "Let them come in", he finally said.

When Eze stepped into the opulently furnished office, he smelt money, felt money and became convinced that he was closest to the money he needed to hit Germany.

"What can I do for you, gentlemen?" Chief Odemba asked after his guest had taken their seats opposite him.

"Chief, here is my friend Eze," Amadi started, "He had just got a golden opportunity to travel to Germany. The visa came suddenly so he needs...." Amadi turned to Eze to supply the amount.

"Yes, three million naira." Eze completed.

"Three million naira," Chief Ochemba repeated slowly as he lolled into his cushioned chair and shut his eyes.

Eze started a fervent silent prayer, that Chief Ochemba would not decline his request.

"Well," Chief Ochemba said as he sat

up, "I'll lend you the money, if you meet the requirement."

"What are they, Chief?" Amadi demanded.

Chief Ochemba cleared his throat, "One, you'll present a collateral, which must be worth more or equal to the amount of money you want to borrow. Two, I charge only thirty percent interest for each month throughout the duration agreed upon. If you fail to complete the repayment at the end of the agreed duration, the collateral, which must be a land or building, will be forfeited."

Eze closed his eyes and lolled into his seat as he weighed the terms and conditions, while the other two pairs of eyes fixed on him.

With Uche's assurance, Eze had no doubt that he will repay the loan and interest within six months, "I agree to all your terms."

Amadi heaved a sigh of relieve while a crooked smile crossed Chief Ochemba's tiny lips. "So what is your collateral?" Chief asked.

"A four bedroom bungalow."

"When was it built?"

"Less than two months ago."

"That's fine."

"So what can I do? I need the money tonight."

"You have to get all the documents. My lawyers will do the necessary checks. If all is well, they will draft the agreement as soon as we put pen to paper, we give you the money in cash or cheque."

"So if everything goes well, Can I get the money today?"

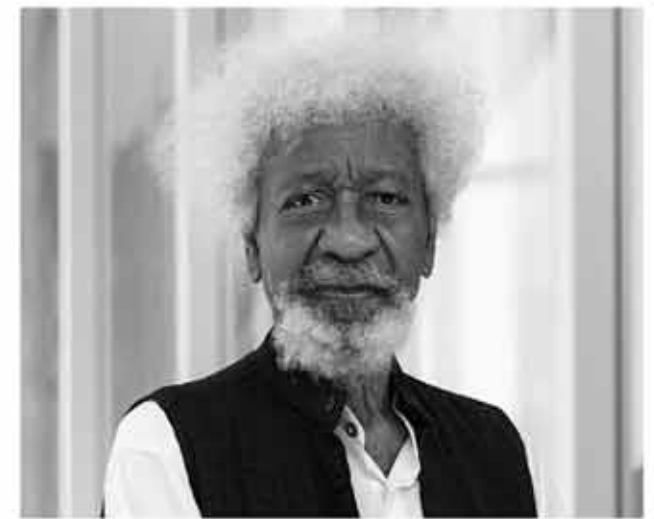
"What's the time..." Chief Ochemba swiveled his chair to look at the giant wall clock hung on the wall to his right, "Ok 9:20 a.m. If my lawyers can verify the papers with the government agencies early enough, you'll get the money today. But, if not, you'll get the money tomorrow."

"I'll bring the documents in thirty minutes time."

Amadi drove Eze home. Nobody was at home as expected. He packed all the house documents and took them to Chief Ochemba.

Later that day, it was agreed that Eze will take the money the following day.

Out of desperation Eze failed to consult his wife before using their house as collateral to borrow money. How will Chioma react when she finds out? What will you do, if you are in Chioma's shoes? Don't miss our next publication.



Wole Soyinka: The Nobel Laureat

If you enjoy learning big English words, you will most definitely enjoy reading the works of Professor Wole Soyinka, who became the first sub-Saharan African to win the Nobel Prize for literature in 1986.

Soyinka was born on July 13, 1934 in Abeokuta, South West Nigeria. He attended Government College and University College Ibadan. He later travelled to the United Kingdom to study at the University of Leeds.

Soyinka worked for Royal Court Theatre in London. He was a political activist that spoke up against colonialism and later against military governments and sit-tight heads of state across Africa.

Between 1993 and 1998 during the regime of the late Gen Sani Abacha, Soyinka became a target of persecution because of his scotching criticism of the dictator and had to flee the country on motorcycle via Benin Republic. Gen. Abacha later proclaimed a death sentence against him in absentia.

After the death of the dictator and the return of civilian rule in Nigeria, Wole Soyinka returned home.

From 1975 to 1999, Prof. Wole Soyinka was a Professor of Comparative Literature at University of Ife now known as the Obafemi Awolowo University. In 1999, he was made Professor Emeritus.

During his days in the United States of America, he taught at Cornell University as Goldwin Smith professor for African Studies and Theatre Arts. In 1996 he was appointed Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Arts at Emory University.

He was a Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and has served as a scholar-in-residence at New York University's Institute of African-American Affairs

and at Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles, California. He was a distinguished Scholar in Residence at Duke University in 2008 and has taught at the University of Cambridge, Oxford Harvard and Yale.

For his contributions to the realization of cultural events that promote understanding and the exchange of knowledge between peoples, Prof. Wole Soyinka received the Europe Theatre Prize in the "Special Prize" category in 2017.

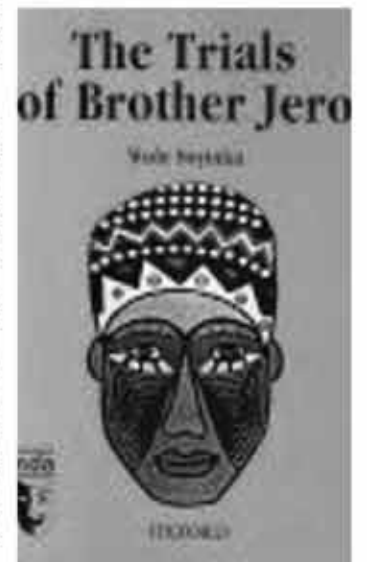
He has written 30 plays including *The Lion and the Jewel* published in 1959, *Before the Blackout*, published in 1964, *Death and the King's Horseman*, published in 1975 and *From Zia with Love*, published in 1992; four novels including *The Interpreters*, published in 1965; three short stories including *A Tale of Two*, published in 1958; six memoirs including *You Must Set Forth at Dawn*, published in 2006; eight collection of poems including *Early Poems*, published in 1997; fourteen essays including *New Imperialism* published in 2009 and three films including *Kongi's Harvest*.

Prof. Wole Soyinka has received over 20 honours for his exploits in creative writing.

CITATIONS INSPIRANTES

"Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on."

Louis L'Amour





ABIA SUBEB RELEASE

2024 ABIA STATE ENHANCEMENT TEAM RECRUITMENT EXERCISE

The Abia State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB) is implementing comprehensive reforms across the Basic Education sector. ASUBEB is seeking qualified candidates to fill positions on the State School Enhancement Team (SSET). The SSET will be a full-time position for two years, managed by the State School Improvement Coordinating team domiciled in SUBEB.

The team will lead the process of school improvement in Primary and Junior Secondary schools in the State. Eligible candidates must be familiar with key thematic areas in education management: access, quality, equity, and gender inclusion.

Eligible applicants from

- **State Tertiary Institutions:** Staff not below GL 13 (Lecturer 1 and above; Professors should not apply).
- **Ministry of Education and other Educational Agencies:** Staff at equivalent levels to GL 13 in tertiary institutions.
- **Faculty of Education:** Members from universities and colleges of education serving as training institutions, in line with UBEC guidelines for TPD funds.

Experience

- Career with over 10 years of experience in teaching, administration, leadership and supervision.
- Recent senior leadership experience in a primary & junior secondary school setting.

Knowledge and Expertise

- Curriculum design, pedagogy and assessment.
- In-depth understanding of teaching practices.

Skills & Responsibilities.

Leadership and Coaching.

- Team leadership & facilitation
- Coaching, mentoring and hand-holding
- Instructional coach

Teaching and Training.

- Training (upskilling and reskilling)
- Classroom observation and feedback.
- Modern pedagogy
- Curriculum design.
- Instructional material design

Student Support.

- Student Engagement
- Community engagement.
- Special Education and Inclusion.

The ability to use the computer and ICT tools is an added advantage.

How you should apply: Eligible candidates should submit their applications to abiastateasubeb@gmail.com, Call: 07076904864 or drop off at ASUBEB/LGEA Offices by 6th August, 2024.

Signed:

Board Secretary, ASUBEB

Religion

Provoking Divine Wisdom For Conquest Through God's Word

Bishop David oyedepo

The Bible is God's wisdom bank; that is, the wisdom of God in print. Also, it is the carrier of God's wisdom treasure from heaven and every child of God has unlimited access to its unlimited treasure. The Word of God is a highly treasured seed (Luke 8:11). It is the most valuable gold or ruby anyone can imagine, because it launches us into realms of the inestimable riches of God in glory.

Furthermore, concerning the Word of God, the Psalmist said: Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me (Psalm 119:98). This helps us to understand that God's Word makes wise which determines our victory in every battle of life because it is better than weapons of war (Ecclesiastics 9:18).

But, what is Divine Wisdom?

Divine wisdom is trading the truth of the Word of God for the supernatural triumph we desire in life. Jesus once said: Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man... (Matthew 7:24-25). It is also written: now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place (2 Corinthians 2:14). So, the truth of the Word of God is what empowers us for triumph.

However, we discovered from scriptures that God-confidence is the biblical wisdom for conquest and fulfilment of destiny. As we all know, it takes being God-confident to be more than a conqueror. Why? Confidence is the conqueror's backbone and the security of our inheritance. That is why

our confidence in God is the target of the enemy in battle. Therefore, it is important to build and sustain that confidence against the day of battle in order not to sellout (Hebrews 10:35).

All the 'more than conqueror' personalities listed in scriptures were God-confident people. For instance, Joseph was a clear picture of what it means to be more than a conqueror through the manifestation of divine wisdom. He was a bundle of misfortunes because everything seemed to be against him, yet he arrived at royalty in grand style. Please understand that all God's purposes for Joseph came to pass and the mystery behind it was his confidence in God (Genesis 41:15-16).

Check out any child of God that is in command, you will discover that he is God-confident. This connotes that you can never gain command until you become absolutely God-confident. That is why God-confidence is key to fulfilment of prophecies. As we all know, it takes the hand of God to deliver His plan and purpose in anyone's life. So, we must maintain absolute trust and dependency in God to take command of the affairs of life and to see the fulfilment of His plans and purposes in our lives. God-God-confidence is God's wisdom for the fulfilment of our glorious destiny!

What, then, is God-confidence?

This implies being fully persuaded about the faithfulness of God and the integrity of His Word; the prevailing circumstances notwithstanding: It is to be fully persuaded that God is who He says He is and can do whatever He says. The Bible said concerning Abraham that he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform (Romans

4:20-21). That is confidence!

It also means compound faith: It means being steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the service of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58). The three Hebrew boys (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego) said to king Nebuchadnezzar that our God whom we serve is able to deliver us and He will deliver us; even if He does not, we are super confident in Him and His Word and God showed up (Daniel 3:17).

It is making your boast in God against the circumstances confronting you: With confidence and a sling in his hand, David went after Goliath who the whole army of Israel could not dare and brought him down (1 Samuel 17:32-37). So, what defeated Goliath was the confidence David had in God. God-confidence is the hidden mystery behind conquest. Nothing wins like God-confidence and that is what makes a believer more than a conqueror. With your confidence in God, you are sure to obtain the promise and arrive at what He has spoken (Hebrews 10:36). So, no matter what our situations look like or we are being mocked by people about our New Dawn package for the year, God will show up this month and give us a change of story

Nevertheless, without salvation, you don't have access to the wisdom of God. So, to operate the wisdom of God, you need to be born again. Are you born again? If you are not, this is an opportunity to do so. Simply say the following prayer: Lord Jesus, I come to You today. I am a sinner. Forgive me my sins. Cleanse me with Your precious Blood. Deliver me from sin and satan to serve the Living God. Today, I accept You as my Lord and Saviour. Thank You Jesus for saving me! Now I know I am born again!" For further reading, please get my books: Walking in Wisdom and The Wisdom That Works.

Entertainment

Bisola Shuts Down Engagement Rumors: "My Ring Fingers Ares Empty"

By Onwuzuruigbo Chinwe

Popular reality TV star and actress, Bisola Aiyeola, has put an end to the swirling rumors about her engagement. The star took to her Instagram page to address the speculation directly, setting the record straight in a manner that left no room for doubt.

The rumors began when a fan, identified as @raquellyesi, sent a direct message to Bisola, predicting an engagement in the near future. The message read, "I smell engagement soon," sparking a flurry of excitement and speculation among her followers.

In a video posted on her Instagram, which has since gone viral, Bisola humorously debunked the engagement rumors. "My sister Raquel, you smell wrong. The only manner of engagement that I smell is engagement on my page. My ring fingers are empty, there is no ring on them," she said, holding up her hands to show her bare fingers.

Bisola emphasized that the only important engagement in her life at the moment is with her fans and the support for her products. "Buying my products is the only engagement that matters now," she added, shifting the focus from her personal life to her professional endeavors.

The video has been widely shared and commented on, with many fans expressing their support and admiration for Bisola's straightforward and



humorous approach. Her candidness has resonated with her audience, many of whom appreciate her focus on her career and engagement with her fanbase.

Bisola Aiyeola, known for her charismatic presence on reality TV and her successful acting career, continues to be a prominent figure in the entertainment industry. Despite the occasional rumors and speculation, she remains focused on her work and maintains a strong connection with her fans.

As the video continues to trend on

social media, it is clear that Bisola's way of addressing rumors—with honesty and a touch of humor—has only strengthened her bond with her audience. Her ability to handle speculation gracefully while keeping her priorities clear serves as an example to many in the public eye.

For now, fans can rest assured that Bisola Aiyeola's engagement is solely with her career and her loyal followers. The actress's direct approach has put an end to the rumors, and her empty ring fingers are a testament to her current focus on professional engagements.

If People Want To Cry To Their Government, Let Them Cry - Macaroni

Popular Nigerian comedian and activist, Mr. Macaroni, has openly criticized the government's response to the ongoing #EndBadGovernance protests. Speaking out against the confrontation and threats faced by peaceful demonstrators, Mr. Macaroni emphasized the right of citizens to express their grievances.

"If people want to protest and cry out to the government, let them cry," Mr. Macaroni said. His comments come amidst reports of anti-protesters attempting to intimidate and confront those participating in the demonstrations. He questioned the logic behind such actions, stating, "Isn't it crazy that the same people who protested peacefully are now trying to stop others from doing the same thing?"

Mr. Macaroni condemned the government's handling of the situation, highlighting the irony in the government's punishment of citizens while simultaneously restricting their right to protest. "The government should protect peaceful protesters, but instead, it's the same government that's causing the problems," he remarked.

The comedian-turned-activist underscored the importance of the government's role in safeguarding the rights of its people, especially during peaceful protests. He argued that the current approach only serves to exacerbate the issues, rather than addressing the concerns of the populace.

"This is proof that the protests are always peaceful and with good intentions until state-sponsored thugs are sent to disrupt the protests," Mr. Macaroni stated. He accused the police of complicity, noting that law enforcement often ignores infiltrators and instead targets peaceful protesters. "This is how it happens not only in Lagos but in other states in the country," he

added. Drawing parallels with the 2020 ENDSARS protests, Mr. Macaroni pointed out the government's tendency to rewrite the history of such events. "At the end of the day, the government will then attempt to rewrite history as if it didn't happen before our very eyes. This is exactly how it happened with EndSARS and the records will forever be there to point at the real enemies of Nigeria who unleashed terror and mayhem in our society," he concluded.

Mr. Macaroni's statements have resonated with many Nigerians who share his frustration with the government's approach to handling protests. His call for the government to listen and protect its citizens echoes the sentiments of countless demonstrators across the country, who continue to demand better governance and accountability. As the protests persist, Mr. Macaroni's advocacy highlights the critical need for a government that prioritizes the welfare and rights of its people, ensuring that their voices are heard and their grievances addressed.



Kizz Daniel Debunks Divorce Rumors Amid Controversy

Afrobeat sensation Kizz Daniel has officially debunked rumors of a breakup with his wife, which had been circulating on social media. The speculation about the couple's relationship status began after the singer was reportedly seen with another woman in his studio, fueling gossip about a potential split.

In the midst of these rumors, Kizz Daniel took to his official social media page, making a cryptic post that added fuel to the fire. He humorously requested a refund for all his expenses, which many interpreted as a hint towards the alleged breakup.

However, in a recent turn of events, Kizz Daniel addressed the controversy head-on by posting a series of photos featuring himself and his wife. The images, which have since gone viral, show the couple together, looking happy and untroubled by the swirling rumors.

The singer's move sent his fans and "internet in-laws" into a frenzy of confusion and relief, as it contradicted the earlier reports of marital discord. Kizz Daniel's wife also appears in the photos, which many believe to be part of a promotional campaign for one of his new songs.

By featuring his wife in these promotional materials, Kizz Daniel has not only quashed the breakup rumors but also used the situation to draw attention to his latest musical

project. This strategic move highlights the couple's solidarity and his savvy in leveraging personal controversies for professional gain.

Fans have expressed their mixed reactions on various social media platforms. While some praised Kizz Daniel for addressing the rumors in such a direct and clever manner, others criticized him for using the speculation to promote his music. Nonetheless, the overwhelming response has been one of support for the couple.

The incident serves as a reminder of the intense scrutiny public figures face and how quickly rumors can spread and evolve in the age of social media. Kizz Daniel's response

demonstrates a growing trend among celebrities to take control of their narratives by engaging directly with their audience.

As the dust settles, Kizz Daniel continues to focus on his music career, with the recent controversy seemingly behind him. The debunking of the divorce rumors has reassured his fans and reaffirmed his status as a prominent figure in the Afrobeat music scene.

For now, Kizz Daniel and his wife appear to be moving forward, with their bond seemingly intact despite the rumors. As they navigate the complexities of fame and public perception, their recent social media posts suggest that they are united in both their personal and professional lives.



Denilson Igwe Opens Up His Challenges Leaving Mark Angel Comedy

Popular Nigerian skit maker, Denilson Igwe, has revealed the difficulties he has faced on social media since his departure from the renowned Mark Angel Comedy group. Speaking candidly in a recent interview on The Honest Bunch Podcast, Igwe shared his frustrations about the stagnant growth of his social media presence.

Mark Angel Comedy, a widely popular comedy channel that started in 2013, boasts over a billion views and nine million subscribers on YouTube. The channel, led by Mark Angel, has featured a host of comedic talents, including the famous child comedian Emmanuella and Denilson Igwe himself.

However, Igwe's departure from the group in 2019 marked the beginning of a challenging period for him. During the podcast interview, Igwe recounted how his YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram pages were hacked the same week he left the comedy group.

"They hacked my YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram pages the week I left Mark Angel Comedy," Igwe stated. "Since that time, I was told to do something I do not understand, but the pages do not go forward or backward. Since 2019 till now, the social media pages have not added one follower. It is just there like that."

The revelation has sparked conversations about the challenges faced by content creators who build their careers on shared platforms and then strike out on their own. Igwe's situation highlights the potential vulnerabilities that can accompany such transitions,

especially when digital assets are compromised.

Despite these setbacks, Denilson Igwe has continued to create content and maintain his presence in the Nigerian entertainment industry. However, the stagnation of his social media pages has undoubtedly impacted his ability to reach and grow his audience effectively.

Fans of Igwe have expressed their support and sympathy on various platforms, urging him to keep pushing forward and not to lose hope. Many have also called for increased awareness and support for content creators who face similar challenges.

As the interview continues to make waves, it brings to light the

importance of cybersecurity for digital creators and the need for protective measures when transitioning between platforms or collaborations.

Denilson Igwe's journey serves as a reminder of the resilience required in the face of digital adversity. While his social media pages may be stagnant, his spirit and dedication to his craft remain unwavering.

For now, Igwe is focused on overcoming these obstacles and continuing to entertain his fans. His story shows trials that many in the entertainment industry face and the importance of community support in navigating these challenges.



SOME OF THE FASHION MISTAKES ANY GENTLEMAN SHOULD NOT MAKE:

Fashion tips
with
Sandra Chibuike
sandychybyke1@gmail.com

Looking good is not only about buying or making new clothes. It encompasses everything about your appearance; from clothing to accessories, down to your footwear, even your carriage. When you understand the essence of looking good, you will pay a little more attention to every detail of your fashion. Firstly, you need to get rid of the outdated trends, novelty clothing items and even habits that repel instead of attract people.

Clothes that are strictly functional or overly flamboyant are not considered stylish. Sometimes, It is difficult to spot a fashion mistake when everybody sees it and adopts it as a trend. In this edition, I will be talking about some of the mistakes every gentleman with a good sense of fashion, should avoid.

TOO MUCH FRAGRANCE:

I want to state that fragrance should be discovered, never announced. That means, your fragrance should not be too strong, such that before you enter a room, your fragrance has announced you. Too much fragrance is not only a turn-off, it can also cause migraines and allergic reactions. Any man who has a poor sense of smell, will become desensitized to their

everyday cologne. As a result, they end up using too much and announcing their presence with a strong scent. Learn to wear the right amount of cologne and also know the right places to apply it. Selectively spray once on your wrists, at the back of your ears and the chest region, while holding the bottle 10 inches away from your

body. Subtlety is the key to impressing, while using generous amounts of cologne reeks of "Show off". Whether you are using a strong perfume or a mild one, the number of sprays does not change. A mild scent evaporates quicker. Find the proper balance and your scent will draw people closer rather than repel them.



BODY ODOR

BODY ODOR: The smell is by showering more than once a day. Any Man by a person's body. This smell is caused by bacteria, use a strong deodorant and when it is multiplied as a body spray. And avoid result of sweat. This can be very repulsive. Most of the time, people who have body odor are desensitized to it. One of the ways to avoid body odor or maintain a good

LARGE AND BOLD LOGOS ON CLOTHING:



Your clothes should, to an extent describe your personality and lifestyle. I am not saying you should not wear designer clothes for work, church, date or for shopping. You are not a walking billboard and should not advertise for a clothes company that doesn't pay the key word is "keep it simple." You do not need to buy designer clothes just to show off the branding, fancy shirts.

SQUARE TOE SHOES:

An extreme shoe shape that was the rage in the 90's. Nothing screams late 90s more than the chunky-soled, squared-toe dress shoes. Avoid making your feet look stubby or like flippers and switch to more refined curved toe shoes.



STUDED BELTS

A studded leather belt is not going to make you look any younger. Outside a watch or tie, men have very few accessories to class up and show their personality. So a plain leather belt looks more mature on a gentleman who wants to look fashionable and classy.



UNTUCKED DRESS SHIRT:

untucking your dress shirts does not mean going casual in today's fashion. You may as well wear a T-shirt. There is a reason why dress shirts are long. They are meant to be tucked in. If you want a more casual look, wear a button down shirt.



FOOD PARTICLES BETWEEN YOUR TEETH:

This may sound funny floss after meal, do not and out of place, but it just run your tongue is an unattractive and round your teeth, or unappealing sight. A rinse only. Use a floss well dressed or toothpick to pick out gentleman who has food particles that may food particles lodged have stuck in-between between his teeth, can your teeth. This also be an ugly sight to helps to maintain a behold. Ensure you fresh breath.

In summary, your good fashion can be marred by other salient areas of your body, if taken for granted. Endeavor to take care of the areas of the body that are visible in order to maintain a clean and adorable outlook.



Countdown to 2024/25 EPL Season: All the Clubs

By Joseph Jacob

As we countdown to August 17, when this season's English Premier League will commence, Sporting Ambassador brings you all you need to know about the 20 clubs that will battle for glory.

ARSENAL

Arsenal Football Club was founded in October 1886. They have won 13 league titles with their last win coming in 2004. The Emirates Stadium is the home ground of Arsenal. It has a capacity of 60,704. Mikel Arteta from Spain is their manager while Martin Odegaard is their captain. Last season, they finished second.

ASTON VILLA

Aston Villa was founded in 1874. They have won the league seven times and their last conquest was in 1981. Aston Villa play their home matches at the Villa Park, which holds 42,657 fans. Spaniard, Unai Emery is still their gaffer while John McGinn is their skipper. Aston Villa finished fourth last season.

BOURNEMOUTH

It was in 1899 that Bournemouth Football Club was established. Their coach is Andoni Iraola from Spain while their captain is Neto from Brazil.

Bournemouth has the smallest stadium among the 20 EPL clubs for next season. The Dean Court can only hold 11,307 spectators. They finished twelfth last season.

BRENTFORD

Brentford was founded on 10th October, 1889. Thomas Frank remains Brentford manager while their skipper is Christian Norgaard.

They play their home game at the G-tech Community Stadium which has a capacity of 17,250.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION

Brighton and Hove



Erling Halaand with the EPL trophy

Albion was founded on June 24, 1901. German tactician Fabian Hurzeles is their new manager, while homeboy, Lewis Dunk is their captain.

They play their home matches at the American Express Stadium which has a capacity of 31,876. Their best EPL finish is 6th, which they achieved in 2023.

CHELSEA

Chelsea was founded in 1905. The last time they won the EPL was in 2017.

Italian, Enzo Maresca will lead Chelsea into battle next season. England international, Reece James is their skipper.

Their home ground is the Stamford Bridge with a capacity of 40,343.

CRYSTAL PALACE

Crystal Palace was founded in 1905. Their best performance was a 10th place finish in 2015.

Palace manager is Oliver Glasner while their captain is Englishman Joel Ward. They play their home matches at the 25,486 capacity Selhurst

Park.

EVERTON

Everton was founded in 1878. their best EPL finish was fourth in 2005.

Sean Dyche is Everton's manager while their captain is Seamus Coleman. Goodison Park with a capacity of 39,414 is their home ground.

FULHAM

Fulham was founded in 1879, their EPL best finish is 7th a feat they accomplished in 2009.

Portuguese Marco Silva is their gaffer while Tom Carney is their skipper. Craven Cottage is where they play their home matches. It has a capacity of 24,500.

IPSWICH TOWN

On 16th October 1878, Ipswich Town was established; their best EPL season came in 2001 when they finished 5th.

Kieran Mckenna will lead Ipswich return to the Premier League with Sam Morsy as the captain. Their home ground, Portland Road, has a capacity of 29,673.

LEICESTER CITY

Leicester City was founded in 1884. They won the EPL in 2016

After losing Enzo Maresca to Chelsea, the Foxes signed Steve Cooper and they will be relying on their captain Jamie Vardy for goals.

Their King Power Stadium has a capacity of 32,262. They won the English Championship last season.

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool was founded in 1892. The have won the League 19 times with their latest and only win in the Premier League era coming in 2020. Liverpool finished third last season.

Dutchman Arne Slot is the new gaffer of Liverpool, his compatriot Virgil van Dijk is their skipper. Their home ground is Anfield with a capacity of 61,273.

MANCHESTER CITY

Manchester City was founded 1880 and they have won the EPL 10 times and are the current champions.

Pep Guardiola will

lead his team as they defend their league title. Englishman Kyle Walker is their captain. The Etihad Stadium has a capacity of 53,400.

MANCHESTER UNITED

Manchester United was founded in 1878. The Red Devils have won the league most times with 20 titles. Their last title came in 2013. They finished 8th last season.

The Red Devils have the largest Stadium in the EPL with Old Trafford having a capacity of 74,031. Their manager is Erik ten Hag while their captain is Bruno Fernandes.

NEWCASTLE UNITED

Newcastle United was founded on 6th September 1895. They have won the league four times. They finished 7th last season.

Eddie Howe is their manager while Jamaal Lascelles is their captain. They play their home matches at the Saint James' Park, which has a capacity of 52,257.

NOTTINGHAM FORESTS

Nottingham Forests was founded in 1865. They have won the league once. But their best performance in the Premier League era was a third finish in 1995. Last season, they finished 17th thereby escaping relegation by whiskers.

Their manager is Nuno Espirito Santo of Portugal and their captain is Ryan Yates. Their City Ground stadium has a capacity of 30,404.

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton was founded in 1885. Their best finish in the league is 6th place in 2016. Russel Martin is the gaffer of the Saints while their skipper is Jack Stephens. They play their home matches at the 32,384 capacity Saint Mary's Stadium.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Tottenham Hotspur was founded in 1882, they finished second in 2017, which remains their best performance in the league. Last season, they finished fifth.

The 62,850 capacity Tottenham Hotspur Stadium will host their home matches. Ange Postecoglou is their manager while their captain is Son Heung-Min of South Korea.

WESTHAM UNITED

West Ham United was founded in 1895, their best league finish was fifth in 1999, but they finished 9th last season.

Spaniard, Julian Lopetegui is their new manager while Kurt Zouma is their captain. The London Stadium has a capacity of 62,500.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

Wolverhampton Wanderers was founded in 1877. They have won the league thrice. They finished 14th last season.

Gary O'Neil is their manager while Max Kilman is their captain. Their Molineux Stadium has a capacity of 31,750.

TRANSFERS: Nigerians on the Move

By Joseph Jacob

Ahead of the upcoming season, some Nigerian players have moved to new clubs to battle for glory alongside their new teammates.

Kelechi Iheanacho has left Leicester City after seeing off his contract that kept him at the King Power Stadium for six years, where he played 232 matches and scored 61 goals. He has signed a two year contract with an option of extension with Sevilla of Spain. The 27 year-old former Manchester City goal-getter has teamed up with Chidera Ejuke, who completed a free transfer from CSKA Moscow.

Ejuke, who have spent four years in Russia, spent last season on loan at Royal Antwerp before setting the record of the first Nigerian player to sign for Sevilla.

Former Super Eagles player, Oghenakaro Etebo has joined Geclerbirligi SK after staying without a club since 2023 when he left Aris FC in May 2023.

Super Eagles defender, Chidozie Awaziem left Europe for America, where he signed a one year deal with an option of extension with Cincinnati from Boavista. The American Soccer League side splashed €500,000 to secure the services of the former FC Porto player.

Gabriel Osho, who featured for Luton Town last season has signed a one year deal with the option of two years extension with French side AJ Auxerre. The French side will be hoping that Osho will replicate the performance of Taribo West, who played for the club in the 1990s.

Fisayo Dele-Bashiru has joined Lazio of Italy after spending one season in Turkey where he scored eight goals and provided five assists in 36 matches for Hatayspor in the Turkish League.

Chukwuikem Ikwuemesi is now an Oud Heverlee Leuven of Belgium player after signing a three year contract.

The 22 year-old forward previously laces his boots for Salernitana in the Italian Serie A.

Ebenezer Akinsamiro has left Italian



side Inter Milan on a season-long loan to UC Sampdoria in the Italian Serie B. Inter Milan are hoping that the Nigerian player will soon become a super star so they included a buy back clause in the contract.

George Ilenikhena has left Royal Antwerp of Belgium for the French League where he will lace his boots for Monaco for an undisclosed fee.

Olabiran Muyiwa also known as Benito has left Dynamo Kyiv but will

still remain in the Ukrainian League as he will play for FC Zorya Luhansk on a loan move.

Tira Iroegbulam has left Aston Villa after Everton splashed £9 million to bring him to the Goodison Park.

Caleb Okoli has left Ademola Lookman and his other Atalanta teammates to team-up with Wilfred Onyinyechi Ndidi in Leicester City in an undis.



BLAST IN THE PAST: The Dammam Miracle

Football history is full of remarkable come backs. The Dammam Miracle is one of football come-backs that will remain indelible in the minds of Nigerian soccer fans.

It was a quarter-final match between the Flying Eagles of Nigeria and USSR at the 1989 FIFA World Youth Championship now known as the FIFA U-20 World Cup. The encounter took place at the Prince Mohamed bin Fahd Stadium in the Saudi Arabian city of Dammam.

Sergei Kiriakov opened scoring for the Europeans on the half hour mark and netted again eight minutes later. Bakhva Tedeev and Oleg Salenko scored to make it 4-0 before the 50th minute.

At this stage the voices of USSR fans were the loudest among the ten thousand fans in the stadium.

Back home in Nigeria, many fans turned off their televisions. I still remember how some of my dad's friends, who were watching the match in our house left angrily.

While some spectators were giving up, the eleven players on the pitch did not give up. They kept on fighting and believing that it was not over until it is over.

When your team is losing, time seems to move very fast. Before long the hour mark struck. Even the most optimistic fans gradually felt doubt beclouding their optimism.

A minute into the last 30 minutes of the match Oladimeji Lawal scored Nigeria's first goal and Christopher Ohenhen scored Nigeria's second goal with 15 minutes to go.

When Samuel Elijah scored Nigeria's third goal in the 83rd minute hope was rekindled but can the equaliser come within the last seven minutes? Yes, it did. Captain Nduka Ugbade scored the equaliser a minute after the third goal. Different cities across Nigeria - from Lagos to Lafia, Kaduna to Calabar, Yola to Yenegoa and Warri to Owerri - erupted into joyous celebration.