

# NATIONAL Ambassador

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## Gov. Otti's

## TRANSFORMATIONAL 2 Years



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The Amazons in Gov. Otti's Government



Ekponibro Cultural Festival 2025





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**O**n behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of HR Tech Nig. Ltd, I wish to congratulate His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, on a very meritorious two years in Office.

There is no doubt that Abia State has witnessed an unprecedented level of transformation under your able leadership.

We note with pride the construction of the abandoned Ozu Abam - Ndi Oji Abam – Arochukwu Road, the construction of Omenuko Road, the construction of Abam Ring Road, Hospitals, renovation and retrofitting of 200 health centres, etc.

We are indeed, very proud of your excellent strides.

**Signed:**



**Mr Mishra Abani**  
CEO /Managing Director  
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**Dr. Anderson Okoro**  
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**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. ALEX CHIOMA OTTI, OFR,  
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE, ON HIS SECOND ANNIVERSARY  
IN OFFICE**

Your Excellency Sir,  
On behalf of my family and the **Roxettes Group**, I extend heartfelt congratulations to you on your second anniversary in office.

Your bold leadership has ushered in a new era for Abia State. From industrial revival to educational reform and critical infrastructure, your efforts are rebuilding the foundation of our economy and empowering our people.

The renewed investor confidence and enabling environment you've created are opening up Abia to serious industrial growth. Your reforms in education—school renovations, teacher empowerment, and student support—are investing in the future of our children.

We are especially grateful for your infrastructural commitments, such as the **Mbala-Umuaku-Ngodo Road** and the pledge to rebuild the **Mmam Bridge**, which are reconnecting rural communities to the state's development grid.

Most profoundly, we thank you for restoring **security** and peace to **Umunneochi L.G.A** and other vulnerable areas. Your swift and courageous actions have returned safety and dignity to our people.

Your Excellency, you are not just building roads and policies—you are rebuilding lives. May God continue to grant you more wisdom Sir.

Respectfully,



**ARC. KAYCEE ORJI, PhD**

**MD/CEO**

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www.mouau.edu.ng

## THE LEGACIES AND LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROF. MADUEBIBISI OFO IWE IN MOUAU

By Ubadire Agua, Ph.D

**M**ichael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, was established by Federal Universities of Agriculture Decree No. 48 of November 1992, but effectively took off in May 1993 by the appointment of the pioneer Governing Council and first Vice-Chancellor.

The vision of the University is to be a foremost institution for producing highly-rated graduates in Agriculture, Science and Technology, and to be a vehicle for the attainment of the primary goals of the **National Agricultural Policy** of self-sufficiency in food and fibre production.

The University aims to provide knowledge through which food and security will be assured in line with its motto – “knowledge, Food and Security”, and therefore has the vision to serve Nigeria and humanity, through processes that will lead to the alleviation of hunger.

In the 32 years of its existence, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike has lived up to expectations; producing over 60,000 highly-skilled graduates with requisite knowledge in various aspects of agriculture, engineering, science and technology, entrepreneurship and management, and released them to the country and the world, thereby contributing to national development and global food security.

In the past 4 years, however, the 6<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, CFS, has transformed the University into an entrepreneurial agricultural university, with legacy projects and landmark achievements.

### Restoration of peace and order and due process on campus

All thorny issues, which hitherto stymied the University, including over 100 litigations, have been amicably resolved. Due process in conducting the business of the University has been firmly established and followed.

### Moving into the Permanent Site of the University:

By his doggedness and determination to give effect to dreams, Prof. Iwe's Administration moved the University to its Permanent Site in Olori Ikwuano with legacy projects, including a new Senate Building and ICT Centre, nearing completion.

### Signing of the University's Certificate of Occupancy

By the grace and favour of God, the Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, signed the Certificate of Occupancy of the University's land, as requested for by Prof. Iwe, after 31 years of existence without access.







## Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike.

Pmb 7267, Umuahia, Abia State, Nigeria.  
www.mouau.edu.ng

### Infrastructural Development

Apart from the projects in the Permanent Site, Prof. Iwe has completed several building and road projects in the University, the most recent being the completion and furnishing of a 50-room University Guest House and a Modern Lecture Theatre.

### Public Lectures

The University's Public Lectures, including Inaugural Lectures, Convocation Lectures, etc., are regular and rich, offering knowledge to the nation as its public service. Prof. Iwe initiated a bi-annual Lecture Series in honour of the Premier of the defunct Eastern Region of Nigeria, late Dr. Michael Iheonukara Okpara, whom the University is named after. The Maiden Dr. Michael Iheonukara Okpara Lecture was held in August 2023 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition in May 2025. During these Lectures, the entire political, academic, economic and socio-cultural communities in the Southeast geopolitical zone converge on Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike to brainstorm on the agricultural and industrialization policies of the late Premier and to leverage on them to rebuild and reposition governments and institutions in the Region for socio-political and economic development.

### Accreditation of Programmes

The University has not failed any assessment of its programmes by the National Universities Commissions (NUC). In fact, all the 60 programmes of the University have full accreditation status of both the NUC and approved professional bodies like COREN, VCN, etc.

### Restoration of de-listed programmes

The Management Science programmes of the University, namely BSc. Accounting, Banking and Finance, Business Administration, Marketing and which were delisted by the Federal Government in 2019 were restored and fully accredited in 2024/2025. This is a huge win for the University, which was a result of commitment, conviction and connections.

### Entrepreneurship

The University and communities in the State now enjoy bread, biscuit and clean water from the Bread, Biscuits and Bottled-water-producing Factories, which were actualized by Prof. Iwe's Administration.

### Post-Harvest Hub and Green Houses

The University received a Post-harvest Hub, built, equipped and donated by a Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute (NSPRI). In the Hub, the University mills rice and process different types of food for the community.

The University has also built more than 11 Green Houses, where it practices smart agriculture, producing healthy and fresh tomato, pepper and cucumber for the community.

### Linkages and Collaborations

The Prof. Iwe-led administration has internationalized the University and opened it up for collaborations with the global academic and research communities. As at today, the



MOU AU NEW GUEST HOUSE



• Postgraduate Hostel •



STUDENTS HOSTEL (BLOCK C)



MOU AU BREAD/WATER



SIGNING OF MOU





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University has functional collaborations and linkages with over 100 national and international institutions, including the League of Tropical Universities (LTU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

With the help of the Abia State Government, the University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the UNDP and now has a world-class Hi-Tech Innovation Hub, the *UNIPOD*.

#### **Corporate Social Responsibility and Extension Services**

The University has lived up to its corporate social responsibilities, by regularly extending its services to communities in Abia State. The University through the MOUAU Extension Centre (MEC) and the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) have continued to teach, train and empower farmers with knowledge, technologies and inputs like fertilizers, seedlings and cassava stems, to improve their agricultural practices and yields.

What more can we say about these things: To God be all the glory!



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# ABIA STATE UNIVERSITY

## ADVERTISEMENT TO FILL VACANT POSITIONS IN ABIA STATE UNIVERSITY, UTURU (TEACHING STAFF)

### VACANCIES

Abia State University invites applications from suitably qualified candidates to fill the following vacant positions (Teaching Staff):

S/N	DEPARTMENTS	POSITIONS
1.	Chemistry	Senior Lecturers
2.	Economics	Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers I and Lecturers II
3.	Surveying and Geo-Informatics	Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers I, Lecturers II, Assistant Lecturers
4.	Pharmacy	Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers I, Lecturers II, Assistant Lecturers
5.	Law	Senior Lecturers, Lecturers I and Lecturers II
6.	Building	Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers I, Lecturers II, Assistant Lecturers
7.	Urban and Regional Planning	Senior Lecturers, Lecturers II, Assistant Lecturers
8.	Estate Management	Senior Lecturers
9.	Architecture	Senior Lecturers, Lecturers I, Lecturers II
10.	Civil Engineering	Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers I, Lecturers II, Assistant Lecturers
11.	Mechanical Engineering	Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers I, Lecturers II and Assistant Lecturers
12.	Computer Engineering	Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers I, Lecturers II and Assistant Lecturers
13.	Chemical Engineering	Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers I, Lecturers II, Assistant Lecturers
14.	Agricultural and Bioresources Engineering	Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers I, Lecturers II, Assistant Lecturers
15.	Electrical and Electronics Engineering	Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers I, Lecturers II, Assistant Lecturers
16.	Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers I, Lecturers II and Assistant Lecturers
17.	Medical Laboratory Science	Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers I, Lecturers II and Assistant Lecturers
18.	Public Health	Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers
19.	Fine and Applied Arts	Readers and Senior Lecturers
20.	Mathematics	Lecturers I, Assistant Lecturers

### QUALIFICATIONS

- Assistant Lecturer**  
A good Honours Degree, plus Masters in the relevant discipline.
- Lecturer II**
  - Ph.D in the relevant discipline or Masters with a minimum of two (2) years cognate experience;
  - Emerging evidence of scholarship by way of publications.
- Lecturer I**
  - Masters Degree in the relevant discipline, with a minimum of five (5) years cognate experience
  - Ph.D in the relevant discipline, with a minimum of two (2) years experience in Lecturer II position;
  - Scholarly Publications in reputable Journals.
- Senior Lecturer**
  - Ph.D in the relevant discipline and must have spent a minimum of two (2) years as a Lecturer I;
  - Scholarly Publications in reputable Journals.
- Reader**
  - Ph.D in the relevant discipline and must have been a Senior Lecturer for not less than two (2) years
  - Scholarly Publications in reputable Journals
- Professor**
  - Ph.D in the relevant discipline and must have been a Reader for not less than two (2) years;
  - Scholarly Publications in reputable Journals
- Librarians**
  - A good Honours Degree in Library Science;
  - A Higher Degree will be an advantage.
- Cataloguers**
  - A good Honours Degree in Library Science, with specialization in Cataloguing;
  - A Higher Degree will be an advantage.

### MODE OF APPLICATION

Interested candidates, who possess the above job qualification requirements should forward their applications, including Executive Summary of curriculum vitae, with list of publications, online to the Registrar, Abia State University, [registrar@abiastateuniversity.edu.ng](mailto:registrar@abiastateuniversity.edu.ng), with the following information:

Full name, Date of Birth, Place of Birth, State and Local Government of Origin, Nationality, Permanent home address, Current Postal/Contact Address/Phone Number/e-mail, Marital Status, Number of Children (with names and ages), Institution(s) attended (with dates), Academic and professional qualifications (with dates), Honours, Distinctions and Membership of Professional bodies, Working experience, Present employment status, salary and employer, Extra-curricular activities, as appropriate. Any other relevant information and Names and Addresses of three (3) Referees (two of whom must be professionals in the candidate's area of specialization).

### SALARY

Very attractive, same as obtainable in other Public Universities in Nigeria.

### DEADLINE FOR THE APPLICATION

All applications should reach the Registrar, Abia State University, not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2025.

Please, note that only shortlisted applicants will be invited for interview.

**Dr. Acha Elendu**

Registrar



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## *From The Editorial Suite*

With

Jones Nnanna Ike



*"Looking at a king's mouth," said an old man, "one would think he never sucked at his mother's breast." ~*

*Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart*

*To the casual observer driving through the now immaculate and pothole-free streets of Abia's urban centers, it may be difficult to recall the condition of these roads just two years ago.*

*Indeed, the state's troubled past appears to be fading rapidly from the collective memory of its residents.*

*This transformation is largely attributable to the impactful and eventful two-year tenure of the administration led by Dr. Alex Otti, who assumed office following a hard-fought and determined political struggle. The administration recently marked its second anniversary on May 29, 2025.*

*This special edition has been meticulously curated to provide a comprehensive coverage of the achievements and milestones recorded during this period.*

*In addition, we bring into focus the work of several key government agencies whose contributions have been instrumental in reshaping the governance landscape of Abia State.*

*Of particular note in this edition is our*

*coverage of the 2025 Ekponibro Festival—the Sea Merchants' Celebration of Excellence. This year's edition was a memorable cultural event, and we are pleased to present highlights that capture its vibrancy and spirit.*

*Equally significant is the notable presence of accomplished and visionary women in the current Gov Otti's administration. These women, occupying strategic and influential positions, exemplify professionalism, competence, and leadership. Our dedicated section titled *The Amazons in Dr. Alex Otti's Administration* offers a closer look at these distinguished public servants.*

*This publication also contains a variety of insightful features and lighter segments designed to inform, inspire, and entertain.*

*It is, without question, a bumper edition—rich in content and value.*

*Wishing you an engaging and rewarding reading experience.*



# The Abia Miracle

By: Jones Nnanna Ike

In just two years—barely halfway through his first term—Governor Alex Chioma Otti has triggered monumental changes that many now refer to as “The Abia Miracle.” But to appreciate the transformation, one must first reflect on the condition of Abia prior to May 29, 2023.

## A State in Ruins:

Before Governor Otti took office, Abia was widely regarded as one of Nigeria's least developed states. Under the administration of Dr. Okezie Ikpeazu (2015–2023), the state's infrastructure, economy, and public service architecture had deteriorated drastically.

Heaps of waste littered Umuahia and Aba. Roads were impassable. Power supply was erratic. Public schools and health facilities were dilapidated. The civil service was riddled with corruption, absenteeism, and inefficiency. Workers and pensioners were owed several months of salary arrears. Government buildings were crumbling, and the public debt burden was staggering—over ₦92 billion owed to banks, contractors, workers, and pensioners.

When Governor Otti assumed office, many government offices were shuttered due to an ongoing industrial action by organized labour. It was a state in near-total collapse—akin to the scene in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, where Okonkwo inherited a legacy of poverty and debt from his improvident father, Unoka.

## Governor Otti and the Abia Miracle:

Against this grim backdrop, Governor Otti's swift and strategic reforms have brought about what many call a miracle. Roads are being rebuilt—Okpara Square to Express Tower, Ngwa Road in Aba, and numerous others. Clean streets, smart schools, revamped hospitals, and upgraded government facilities now reflect a new era of governance.



But this “miracle” is not magic. It is the product of sound economic planning, strong political will, and an unyielding commitment to service.

## Building a New Governance System:

The “New Abia” is powered by a reformed governance structure built on:

### Merit-Based Appointments:

Professionals with proven track records have been appointed to key positions, regardless of gender, class, or ethnicity.

**Rule of Law:** Governance is now driven by due process, legality, and institutional integrity.

**Leadership by Example:** Governor Otti leads from the front, setting high standards of discipline, hard work, and transparency. Public workers are now paid regularly—on the 28th of every month, as promised during the campaign.

**Empathy for the Vulnerable:** His administration has implemented free healthcare programmes, settled salary and pension arrears, and expanded access to education through empowerment initiatives.

**MDA Reform:** Ministries have been restructured for efficiency, many now implementing projects via direct labour at minimal cost.

**Fiscal Discipline:** Strict adherence to budgetary provisions ensures that public funds are properly utilized. Payment cycles are transparent, with the Accountant-General mandated to release funds within 72 hours of approval.

**Strategic Partnerships:** The Governor has tapped into both local and international networks to attract investments and support. Structural platforms such as the Transition Council, Global Economic Council, and Security Trust Fund have enhanced coordination.

## A Culture of Hard Work:

Governor Otti's legendary work ethic has redefined leadership in Abia. He is known to sleep less than four hours a night, constantly pushing the machinery of government forward. His relentless drive has inspired his team and established a governance tempo that ensures projects are delivered promptly and efficiently.

## Restoring Trust Through Accountability:

Public funds are no longer siphoned off. The Due Process Office ensures value-for-money in all procurements, and the culture of stealing from state coffers has been decisively dismantled. The result? Investors and development partners now see Abia as a credible destination for business.

## Inclusive Governance:

Governor Otti's administration reflects inclusivity across all zones, communities, and gender lines. For the first time, women hold critical roles in government, and no part of the state feels marginalized.

## Conclusion: A New Abia Has Emerged:

The “Abia Miracle” is not a fluke—it is the result of deliberate policies, disciplined execution, and people-centered governance. Governor Otti's administration has reawakened hope, restored pride, and repositioned Abia as a model of transformation.

In just two years, Abia has not only bounced back from the brink—it is charting a bold new path towards prosperity. The once-forgotten state is now a shining example of what visionary leadership can achieve. Indeed, the New Abia is here to stay.



# 2 YEARS OF GOV. OTTI'S ACTIVE STEWARDSHIP TO ABIANS

By Prof Joshua Uzoma Ogbonna



In the dynamic landscape of Nigerian politics, leadership is often evaluated by the tangible changes it brings to the lives of citizens. As Dr. Alex Otti marks two years in office as the Executive Governor of Abia State, it is an opportune moment to assess his stewardship—a blend of bold reforms, people-oriented governance, and visionary development. Elected on the promise of transformation and accountability, Governor Otti has made significant strides in repositioning Abia State on the path of sustainable growth and good governance.

These include, but are not limited to:

## Rebuilding Infrastructure and Urban Renewal

One of the most visible markers of Dr. Otti's administration is the renewed focus on infrastructure development. In his two years, critical road networks long abandoned have witnessed rehabilitation and reconstruction. Major roads in

Aba, Umuahia, and other urban centres have been transformed, easing movement and boosting local economies. The rehabilitation of the Port Harcourt Road in Aba, for instance, has rekindled commercial activities in the city known as the "Japan of Africa."

Beyond roads, the state's urban renewal agenda has included the modernization of markets, improved drainage systems, and beautification projects, aiming to restore the aesthetic and functional appeal of Abia's cities. These efforts reflect a leadership that understands infrastructure as the bedrock of economic revival.

## Health and Education: Building Human Capital

Governor Otti's administration has placed considerable emphasis on revitalizing the health and education sectors. Health facilities across the state have received upgrades, with investments in equipment, personnel, and rural outreach programs. The revitalization of primary healthcare centres has ensured that healthcare is not only accessible but also affordable to the rural poor.

In education, the Otti administration has pursued aggressive reforms to improve teaching quality, renovate dilapidated schools, and provide learning materials.

His government's commitment to teacher welfare, prompt salary payments, and training programs underscores a long-term vision to invest in Abia's human capital.

## Economic Reforms and Job Creation:

At the heart of Dr. Otti's economic agenda is the drive to create a more business-friendly environment. By simplifying bureaucratic processes, improving the



ease of doing business, and promoting local enterprise, the state is gradually attracting new investments. The introduction of digital land titling and streamlined tax systems are steps toward building a transparent and efficient economic environment.

In addition, the administration's support for small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs), through grants, training, and access to markets, has been instrumental in tackling youth unemployment. The state's agricultural revitalization initiatives, including support for cooperative farming and agro-processing, aim to harness Abia's vast arable land and reduce dependence on oil revenues.

\*J U Ogbonna, a Professor of Geographic Information Systems & Spatial Modeling, is DVC Administration, Abia State University, Uturu.

## Governance and Transparency

Dr. Otti came into office as a technocrat with a strong background in banking and finance, and he has brought this experience to bear in his approach to governance. His administration has embraced open governance, fiscal responsibility, and public accountability. Monthly briefings, community engagements, and accessible public officials are reshaping the public perception of leadership in the state.

The prompt payment of salaries and pensions—once a source of widespread grievance—has become a hallmark of the Otti administration. Civil servants and retirees now receive their dues without the delays that previously plagued the system, reflecting a government that values dignity and service.

## Security and Law Enforcement

Recognizing that security is critical to development, the Otti administration has strengthened the state's security architecture through logistics support to law enforcement agencies, deployment of surveillance technologies, and community policing initiatives. These efforts have contributed to a notable reduction in crime and improved public safety.

## Revitalizing Tertiary Education: The Case of Abia State University, Uturu

Dr. Alex Otti's administration has recognized that the strength of any society lies in its intellectual capital. In line with this vision, his government has prioritized the revival and development of tertiary education in Abia State, with Abia State University (ABSU), Uturu, standing as a focal point of these reforms.

## Financial Intervention and Stability

One of the earliest interventions by Governor Otti was the clearing of subventions owed to ABSU, which had accumulated under previous administrations. These subventions—critical for the day-to-day running of the institution—were restored and paid promptly, helping the university stabilize financially. This move not only ensured that lecturers and nonacademic staff received their salaries regularly, but also improved staff morale and productivity.

## Infrastructure and Learning Environment

Governor Otti's government has begun the process of revamping learning infrastructure at ABSU. Classroom blocks, lecture theatres, laboratories, and hostels—many of which had fallen into disrepair—are now being renovated. The administration also initiated collaborations with federal and international education partners to explore co-funding models for infrastructure projects.

## Student-Centric Policies

Students are at the core of the tertiary education system, and Governor Otti has rolled out policies aimed at improving student welfare. These include scholarships for indigent students, improvements in campus security, and plans for building new hostels and recreational facilities.

## On the Transformation of Road Infrastructure:

From the onset of his administration, Dr. Alex Otti identified road infrastructure as a critical pillar in driving economic growth, improving social welfare, and restoring public confidence in governance. Nowhere has this vision been more evident than in Aba and Umuahia, the commercial and administrative capitals of Abia State, respectively.

Years of neglect had left roads in these cities in



## 2 YEARS OF GOV. OTTI'S ACTIVE STEWARDSHIP TO ABIANS

deplorable conditions—marked by potholes, erosion, flooding, and impassability. Dr. Otti's administration made it a priority to change this narrative.

### **Aba: The Commercial Heartbeat Revived**

Known as the "Japan of Africa" due to its famed entrepreneurial spirit and production capacity, Aba suffered severely from collapsed infrastructure, especially roads that link markets, artisan clusters, and industrial zones. Dr. Otti's government tackled this head-on.

#### **Key Interventions:**

**Port Harcourt Road:** Once a nightmare for motorists and a symbol of governmental failure, Port Harcourt Road has been completely reconstructed with modern drainage systems and durable asphalt overlay. This single project has reopened access to major markets like

#### **Ariaria and boosted commercial activities.**

**Ossah, Ngwa, and Aba-Owerri Roads:** These critical arteries have either been rehabilitated or are undergoing reconstruction. For the first time in years, residents and businesses are experiencing uninterrupted mobility during the rainy season.

**Drainage and Flood Control:** Recognizing that poor drainage was a root cause of road failure in Aba, the Otti administration has embedded comprehensive drainage systems in all ongoing road projects. This has significantly reduced flash flooding in previously submerged areas like Uratta, Obohia, and Ohanku roads.

#### **Umuahia: A New Face for the Capital**

In Umuahia, the state capital, the transformation has been both physical and psychological. For decades, residents lamented the neglect of basic infrastructure. Dr. Otti's focus has been to open up the city, reduce traffic congestion, and improve the ease of movement.

#### **Key Interventions:**

**Ossah Road Dualization:** One of the signature projects in Umuahia, the dualization of Ossah Road, has changed the landscape of the city. This road, which connects Umuahia to the Enugu-Port Harcourt Expressway, is now a gateway befitting a state capital.

**Roads Around Government Layout and Secretariat:** Roads around key government institutions and residential neighborhoods, such as Library Avenue, Finbarrs Road, and Isi Gate, have been reconstructed to improve administrative efficiency and urban aesthetics.

**Rural-Urban Link Roads:** Feeder roads connecting Umuahia to surrounding communities (like Umuagu, Ubakala, and Olokoro) are being rehabilitated, fostering economic ties between rural producers and urban consumers.

#### **Methodology and Governance**

Dr. Otti's approach to road construction reflects a shift from contract-sharing to contract-performance. He introduced a due process-based model, partnering only with reputable indigenous and international construction firms, ensuring projects are executed to standard and within timeframes.

Furthermore, public project monitoring has been encouraged. The government releases regular updates on ongoing road works, inviting public feedback and scrutiny—a far cry from the opaque systems of the past.

#### **Economic and Social Impact**

The improved road infrastructure in Aba and Umuahia has already begun yielding visible results:

**Revival of local businesses,** especially in Aba where access to markets and industrial zones has been restored.

**Reduced transportation costs and vehicle maintenance expenses** due to better road surfaces.

**Improved investor confidence in Abia State,** with businesses now considering logistics and mobility as assets rather than liabilities.

**Better quality of life for residents,** with reduced travel time, less flooding, and safer roads.

**The Proposed Abia Airport: Gateway to Regional Integration**

Perhaps the most visionary component of Otti's transport revolution is the plan to build a state-owned airport—a first in the history of Abia State. The Abia

Airport project, recently announced and already in preliminary stages of planning and land acquisition, represents a transformative shift in infrastructure thinking.

#### **Strategic Importance:**

**Economic Gateway:** The airport is expected to serve as a major hub for business travel, cargo movement, and logistics, especially for Aba's vast network of traders and manufacturers who rely on regional and international connectivity.

**Job Creation:** Thousands of direct and indirect jobs are anticipated from the airport's construction, operations, and auxiliary services such as hospitality, retail, and logistics.

**Tourism and Investment:** With an airport, Abia becomes more accessible to investors, tourists, and diaspora professionals—aligning with Otti's vision of repositioning the state as a regional powerhouse.

Gov. Alex Otti of Abia State using IVM vehicle during inauguration

#### **Current Status:**

The government has identified and secured a large parcel of land in a strategically central location, balancing access for both Aba and Umuahia.

Feasibility studies are ongoing, with plans to partner

with the Federal Airports

Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and private investors under a public-private partnership (PPP) model to ensure long-term viability and professional operation.

**Modern Bus Terminals in Aba and Umuahia: Order from Chaos**

For decades, transport terminals in Aba and Umuahia were characterized by congestion, poor hygiene, insecurity, and the dominance of informal operators.

Dr. Otti's administration took decisive steps to replace chaotic motor parks with ultra-modern bus terminals designed for efficiency, safety, and urban aesthetics.

#### **Expected Features of the New Terminals:**

**Integrated Transport Facilities:** Each terminal includes arrival and departure bays, ticketing counters, lounge areas, eateries, and public conveniences—designed to meet modern standards.

**Digital Infrastructure:** Implementation of digital ticketing and real-time transport information systems is part of the terminal operations, reducing touting and enabling better regulation.

**Security and Order:** With CCTV surveillance, well-lit environments, and uniformed security personnel, commuters and transport operators now experience safer and more orderly transit.

**Economic Hubs:** These terminals also serve as mini commercial centres, creating micro-business opportunities for vendors, service providers, and artisans.

#### **Location and Impact:**

In Aba, the terminal is strategically located near Ariaria Market, easing the movement of goods and passengers.

In Umuahia, the terminal is integrated into the city's new urban transport plan, decongesting the old Isi Gate axis and restoring dignity to the capital's transport landscape.

These terminals will also create hundreds of jobs, formalized the oncedisorganised sector, and improve the commuting experience for thousands of Abians daily.

#### **Conclusion**

Governor Alex Otti's commitment to transforming Aba and Umuahia through durable, strategic, and transparent road infrastructure development is arguably one of the standout achievements of his first two years in office. By addressing years of decay and neglect, he has not only restored functionality to Abia's urban centres but also renewed the hope of a people once resigned to poor governance. These roads are more than asphalt and concrete—they are the foundations of a new Abia rising.

**Prof. Joshua U. Ogbonna, an Abian from Nvosi**



# THE NEW ABIA AT TWO: SUSTAINING THE MOMENTUM

**G**ov Alex Otti's Stateman's speech delivered on May 29, 2025 to mark the second anniversary of the Government

## Protocols

1. Today is a special day in the annals of our history and I share in the joy of millions of Abians at home and in the diaspora whose sacrifices and resilient push for a better social and economic deal for the State took down the old stronghold that arrested our development for decades and ushered in a new dawn of hope and progress. For our people, the significance of May 29 since 2023 is no longer about change of baton from one political leader or party to another, it has come to represent a watershed moment, a turn in fortune and an enduring testimony to the truth of the invincibility of the human spirit.

2. Today, we celebrate the second anniversary of our inauguration and assumption of office as leaders of the State. One cannot but be filled with a profound sense of gratitude to the Almighty God for the privilege of being chosen to serve His people and be transformed into the vessel of their lifting from the nadir of despair to a place of restoration and hope. We are God's own people for a reason and if there is one central lesson we can take away from the events of the last decade, even amidst the setbacks and failed expectations, it is the fact that as in the time of old, God does not abandon those who place their trust in Him.

3. We are in a good place today because millions of ndi Abia spread across the world realised long ago that we cannot attain true individual fulfilment if we do not work collectively to build a state that represents our highest ideals and values. Long before we threw our hats in the ring, the subject of rescuing Abia from the vicious grip of self-seeking opportunists had become popular amongst the elites and regular people. Our general frustration with the leadership disposition of the past was never hidden so it was no happenstance that when we presented ourselves to lead the rescue efforts, the people who had long yearned for a new order quickly took matters into their own hands. Today presents us with a golden opportunity to say thank you to the unsung heroes and heroines of the Abia liberation movement, the ordinary men and women who resisted hunger and the



lure of monetary gains to fight for the promises of a new Abia. Appreciation is also due to the elites who stuck out their necks over the long duration of the campaign. Thank you for refusing to accept that we were perpetually destined to mediocrity.

4. Everything we have done in the last two years represents a modest effort at repaying your trust in us. Even then, we are also not ignorant of the fact that many of you sacrificed much more than any human endeavour can ever make up for. Today, we renew our commitment to constantly remind ourselves that we are not here to be served, that our efforts alone could not have earned us this exalted position, and that credit for whatever is achieved in our time belongs to you, ndi Abia. Your resilience and faith brought us this honour. Our duty will be to serve you committedly, and without reservation.

5. As you may know, the most enduring appeal of the democratic system of governance is the opportunity it provides for periodic stocktaking — moments of accountability to draw progress report and evaluate outcomes. Democracy is a journey and never a destination, a track and not a station. Even then, taking stock after every milestone helps in assessing the performance of the leader vis-à-vis the expectations of every stakeholder. Like in every journey of great significance, it is fitting that on a day like this, Abians are made to know how far we have come, not because they cannot see it for themselves but on account of

the fact that we owe them a duty to consistently present our progress report.

6. While we cannot claim to have met every target we set at the beginning of this leg of the journey two years ago, I am glad to announce without equivocation that we have initiated strong institutional reforms that will ultimately form the bedrock of our prosperity for generations to come.

Our administrative and economic institutions, law enforcement and public safety agencies, health and emergency services frameworks, and platforms for social protection and support for vulnerable groups are more robust and responsive today than they have ever been at any point in our history. We have effectively restored law and order in communities where chaos once reigned. Under our watch, road infrastructure development projects are happening at a pace no one could have imagined just a few years ago. The urban streets are cleaner and most remarkably, a new culture of collective accountability is spreading amongst residents of the State simply because we fought and defeated the old culture of filth and irresponsibility.

7. We have since established a pattern of certainty and consistency in the payment of the entitlements of workers and retirees, even after the wage bill rose by more than 130% following the implementation of the new national minimum wage. You may also be aware that over the past two years, we have committed close to N40 billion in defraying arrears of salaries and pensions accumulated before May 29, 2023. These payments are motivated by a commitment to right the wrongs of the past and give comfort to those who work or retired from the employ of the State Government that their welfare is not a matter for discretionary considerations but a sacred obligation that should not be toyed with. More significantly,

the old regime of partial payment of pension is gone for good. Pensioners now get 100% of their entitlements at the end of every month.

8. We have continued to fix the environment where our workers operate from. Some abandoned buildings like the Nnamdi Azikiwe Secretariat have been reclaimed and renovated. The JAAC building has been completed and workers now operate from



## THE NEW ABIA AT TWO: SUSTAINING THE MOMENTUM

there. Many other buildings including the Michael Okpara Auditorium are being rebuilt.

9. Beyond what we pay to those who draw their monthly cheques from public coffers on account of their employment, we have also raised the bar in meeting our contractual obligations to vendors and contractors promptly. We have established a system that pays contractors as soon as they reach agreed milestones. This is to avoid unnecessary liabilities that could derail project delivery timelines. We have also gone a notch higher to adopt a policy of fair compensation to individuals who suffer property losses in the course of development activities. Effectively, whoever is involved in any legitimate transaction with the State can expect to be fairly treated.

10. In very specific terms, the last two years have seen the construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of 237 roads in different parts of the State stretching hundreds of kilometres with Port Harcourt Road, Ohanku, Obohia, Aguiyi Ironsi Boulevard, Library Avenue, Joe Irukwe Way and Arochukwu-Ndi Okereke-Ozuabam Roads, being the most prominent following years of neglect and failed promises. I am glad to report that our road infrastructure development footprint has touched every local government area of the State. Our roads now bear certain distinct signatures including solar-powered streetlights, directional markings to guide users, appropriate drainage pathways to increase the service life of the roads and other safety features.

11. Closely connected to our road infrastructure development programme is the modernisation of the State's public transport system. With the road networks across intra and intercity routes in improved conditions, we have set out modalities to upgrade the way we move people and goods round the State. We expect to take delivery of new electric-powered buses procured for mass transit services shortly. The supporting infrastructure, including charging stations, junction improvement works and bus shelters are in various stages of completion. When operational by the third quarter of this year, the mass transit system would reduce cost and improve efficiency in commuting.

12. Through the setting up of robust institutional frameworks, the State Government is brining every community in Abia into the development circuit. The Greater

Abia Development Authority and the Greater Ohafia Development Authority are established to coordinate development activities within the southern and northern parts of the State respectively.

They are also structured to stimulate economic growth by creating a system of incentives for investors. Just this week, I signed the Umuahia Capital Development Authority (UCDA) Amendment Bill into law. The new law will further streamline the operational activities of the UCDA to guarantee optimal service delivery and effective administrative responsiveness in line with global best practices. It is now beyond dispute that new framework for the accelerated development of all parts of the State has been set in motion. We expect to reap the benefits of these initiatives through accelerated investments in real estate, targeted infrastructure development and job opportunities for tens of thousands of our young people.

13. We have consciously kept the young people at the centre of our development programmes because the future belongs to them. Our priority from the get-go has been to build a suitable environment that would enable them take advantage of the opportunities that the new global economic order promises. Over the past two years, we have committed generous amounts of resources in the training and upskilling of thousands of young people, exposing them to life-transforming opportunities in the agricultural value chain, ICT, vocational education and business management. Not too long ago, 10,000 nano entrepreneurs from the 184 wards in the State got a combined support funding of N1 billion to support their businesses.

14. Our biggest investment in the lives and dreams of the young generation is in the education sector where we have consistently committed 20% of our annual financial outlays over the last two budget cycles. Just recently,



we published the list of over 5,300 qualified persons recruited into the teaching workforce. We have also outlined modalities to recruit additional 4,000 qualified persons as teachers as we work to meet the surge in teacher demand following an explosion in enrolment after we made basic education in the state free and compulsory. We are not just recruiting teachers for the fun of it; we are focused on areas of critical needs like sciences, engineering, mathematics and technology. History and Igbo Language are also of great importance to us following our directive that those subjects be made compulsory in our schools.

Our goal for the education system is to build a population of future-ready individuals who will not only make the most of the opportunities of the day but would equally not lose their identity and cultural pride while operating in a global environment.

15. Electricity has been a major clog in our development wheel for years. We appreciate that no matter how determined we become to conquer this seemingly intractable challenge, we may not attain our goal in the short term. At any rate, we have moved with a resolute determination to tackle the challenge of erratic power supply which has not only undermined our productive endeavours, but has harmed our economic growth, worsened the unemployment crisis as well as stunted the appetite to invest. I am glad that the electricity market in Abia is improving even in the midst of environmental and operational challenges. Things will also take a turn for the better in other parts of the State in the light of our negotiations with EEDC to acquire the Umuahia ring fence and take our energy destiny in our own hands.

## THE NEW ABIA AT TWO: SUSTAINING THE MOMENTUM

The prospects are great and we hope to finalise the deal shortly. As part of our commitment to explore multiple options to meet our energy needs, we have taken a strong dive into the alternative energy systems. From the installation of close to 7,000 solar-powered streetlights to extensive investments in new energy sources for our medical facilities and schools, we are leaving no stone unturned in the push to make electricity available for domestic and industrial activities in Abia. Just last week, we launched the Nigeria Solar for Health Project in the State. The initiative supported by the Europe Union will see the installation of alternative energy infrastructure in our health facilities especially in the rural communities where access to conventional electricity may prove difficult or too expensive. The State bought into this project because in addition to transforming access to healthcare and quality of service in rural communities, we shall be saving significant sums on energy bills.

16. In the health sector, I am honoured to report that remarkable progress has also been made in primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare services.

Across Abia, several primary healthcare facilities which hitherto lay moribund are now fully operational after we successfully renovated, staffed and supplied drugs and medical consumables. More than 100 primary healthcare centres successfully fixed under Project Ekwueme in different parts of the State are now ready for commissioning. Over the last 24 months, the State Government diligently completed the renovation of Government Cottage Hospital Abayi. In Ikwuano, Ohafia, Obingwa, Okeikpe, Arochukwu, Umuiehe and Nkporo, our team of builders and architects are working hard to meet the deadline given for the completion of on-going renovation works in the general hospitals. In Okpualangwa, Umunneochi and Ukwia East, arrangements have been concluded for the building of brand new general hospitals to meet the health needs of the population. The last 2 years have also seen the restoration of full accreditation to the Abia State University Teaching Hospital Aba. The facility, I am happy to note, has acquired the necessary equipment and tools to offer a wide range of medical services. In Umuahia, the Abia State Specialist and Diagnostics Hospital is now primed to effectively attend to the health needs of individuals and families. The eye care centre located within the facility has since achieved distinction as a major regional hub for excellence in eye care.

17. Beyond the great outputs recorded across multiple development frontiers, we have also not neglected the plight of the most vulnerable in our communities, committing more than N500 million in social support to vulnerable individuals and families in communities in the State. We have also been up to date in meeting our obligations in donor-funded social care programmes designed to support the economically disadvantaged in our societies. Since we assumed office, tens of thousands of individuals have benefitted from needs-driven interventions sponsored by the Federal Government and multilateral donors to cushion the effects of economic difficulties.

18. The social and economic impacts that have been made in the last 2 years point us to what lies ahead in the next 24 months of our current term of office. Through an intelligent leadership recruitment philosophy, our interventions, social services, economic transformation, and administrative structures are living up to their billing following the introduction and adoption of multiple layers of reforms across ministries, departments and agencies. A new service orientation has been adopted in our bureaucracy and the old culture of nonchalance abandoned. There is greater liquidity in our economy today and new businesses are emerging; unemployment figures are going down and our fiscal transparency rating is increasingly moving north. Aba's old glory is returning and Abia has emerged as an attractive destination for hundreds of thousands of people surging into our communities from different parts of the country in search of new opportunities. Landlords are seeing an astronomical rise in property value and investor confidence is at all-time high.

19. The remarkable strides that have been recorded across several development frontiers in the last 24 months could not have happened without the active partnership of the legislative and judicial arms of government. You deserve generous commendations for extending strong institutional support to the executive branch of government and for adopting the service orientation of the New Abia in the discharge of your constitutional duties. Thank you for demonstrating that independence of structure need not lead to



antagonism in the pattern of relationship between different arms of government.

20. Again, it is not yet uhuru as I hinted at the beginning and we have to resist the temptation to get carried away. The task before us is still enormous and we should reject anything that is capable of distracting us from our goal. One thing we shall never stop asking for is your support and encouragement through regular and prompt payment of taxes and other statutory fees. Do not forget that we are all partners in the New Abia project. My assurance is that every penny paid into the public coffers under our watch shall be properly accounted for. Abia, as we promised in our manifesto, shall be great in our lifetime and it is up to all of us to make it happen.

21. I want to thank people who have supported this government in the last two years by giving of their precious time, mostly on pro bono basis, to ensure that we get it right. The Global Economic Advisory Council jointly led by Arunma Oteh, HRH Khalifa Sanusi and Mr. Bolaji Balogun has been wonderful in supporting us with economic strategy and direction. The Security Advisory Council led by Lt. Gen. Azubuike Onyeabo Ihejirika has helped tremendously in supporting the security architecture of the state, just like the Service Commanders and Operation Crush.

22. Let me, as I conclude, pay special tribute to family members, friends and colleagues who laboured for the emergence of the New Abia but did not live to see it materialise. May we be inspired by their courage and at all times remember that what we achieved in 2023 did not come cheap. It is up to us, the living, to guard this victory for which these brave heroes and heroines gave their lives. We pray God to grant them eternal rest and comfort those they left behind.

23. Thank you for listening and may God bless Abia State.

*Dr Alex C. Otti OFR,*





# ASUBEB. *Felicitates Abia's*

EDUCATION FRIEND GOVERNOR

**DR. ALEX CHIOMA OTTI OFR**



**O**n behalf of the Board, management, and staff of the Abia State Universal Basic Education Board, I heartily extend our warmest felicitations to you, His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, Executive Governor of Abia State, as you mark two impactful years in office.

Your Excellency, your administration has demonstrated nothing short of transformational and purposeful leadership, anchored on accountability, vision, and a deep commitment to the socio-economic rebirth of our dear state. In just two years, your leadership has rekindled hope, inspired confidence, and delivered life-changing projects to Ndi Abia across all sectors. Under your visionary stewardship, the state has experienced a renaissance of responsible governance, transparency, and inclusive development that is widely acknowledged and celebrated across the federation and at the world at large.

In the education sector, your achievements are bold, deliberate, and historic. From the ongoing construction of the Twenty model Abia Smart Schools across the 17 LGAs, to the renovation and retrofitting of dilapidated public school structures, and your unprecedented approval of over 20% of the 2025 Abia State budget to education, stand as monumental testaments to your passion for education as your administration has set a new benchmark in prioritizing human capital development. These state-of-the-art learning environments are already redefining the educational landscape of Abia State and setting new standards for basic education delivery in Nigeria.

Under your visionary leadership, the reformation of the education sector has touched every ramification policy reforms, curriculum development, teacher training and welfare, infrastructure development, digital innovation/education, school census implementation, and community engagement through SBMCs' free and compulsory education for all Abia children and community engagement. These strides are already laying the foundation for a more inclusive, equitable, and competitive educational system in Abia State.

Beyond education, Your Excellency, your administration has recorded undeniable achievements in infrastructure development, healthcare, economic revitalisation, youth empowerment, and governance reforms, which continue to reposition Abia as a model of good governance and progressive leadership in Nigeria. These efforts have not only restored the dignity of governance but also earned you the admiration of Ndi New Abia and beyond.

As a key partner in driving educational development, ASUBEB proudly aligns with your transformative vision for a globally competitive, knowledge-driven, and people-oriented New Abia. We remain committed to delivering on your mandate to make basic education accessible, qualitative, and future-ready for every child in Abia State; we are proud to be part of your transformational journey.

Once again, Congratulations, Your Excellency, on your remarkable journey so far. May your next years in office bring even greater peace, prosperity, and progress to the good people of Abia, and may Almighty God continue to bless and guide you with wisdom, strength, and good health as you lead our beloved state to even greater heights.

Long live the New Abia!  
Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!

**Lady Mrs. Ezihe Lydia Onuoha**  
*Executive Chairman*  
Abia State Universal Basic Education Board







# in Gov. Alex Otti's Administration

## **Two Years in the Saddle: Governor Alex Otti's Inclusive Leadership and the Rise of the Abia Amazons**

Compiled By Ihuoma Egbeogu, Kelechi Ogidi & Sandra Chibuike



**T**wo years into his tenure as the fifth democratically elected Governor of Abia State, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti has continued to champion an all-inclusive government—one devoid of gender, class, or clannish discrimination. Governor Otti has broken away from the politics of party affiliation, tribalism, or godfatherism in his appointments. Instead, he has anchored all his selections on competence and merit, thus ushering in a culture of meritocracy in the governance of Abia State.

His administration is making waves with its innovative approach to governance, and one of the most striking features is the inclusion of highly skilled and accomplished women in key positions. These women, aptly described as "Amazons," have brought their expertise, passion, and dedication to the fore, contributing significantly to the realization of the administration's "New Abia" vision.

The term "Amazon" is often used to describe strong, capable, and fearless women who excel in their fields. In the context of Governor Otti's administration, these Amazons are not only breaking glass ceilings but also redefining governance in the State. With their unique blend of skills, experience, and commitment, they are shaping policies, driving initiatives, and implementing programs that are transforming the lives of Abia State residents and turning the vision of the "Abia of our dreams" into reality.

Under Governor Otti's leadership, Abia women have found their pride of place. Their voices are being heard, and they are contributing significantly to the growth and transformation of the state. Whether as Commissioners, Permanent Secretaries, Senior Special Assistants, Special Assistants, Heads of MDAs, or members of boards and governing councils, Abia women are present and active.

It is indeed a new dawn for Abia women, and we continue to celebrate Dr. Alex Otti for changing the narrative and raising the bar in the administration of God's Own State.

This feature will explore who these Amazons are, their profiles, and the impact they are making in driving progress and development across the State.





### PROFESSOR UCHE EME-UCHE

(Commissioner of Tertiary Education, Abia State).

**P**rof. Uche Eme-Uche is a trailblazing educator, political leader and an advocate whose works have indelible marks on academic, public and community Services. Prof. holds a PhD, Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE), a Masters degree and B.sc in Political Science from UNN. Before her

appointment as a Commissioner by Dr. Alex Otti, She has lectured in prestigious Institutions including the Federal College of Education Eha-Amufu, the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and the Evangel University where she rose to the rank of a Professor. She is a member of Professional bodies like the World Assembly of the International Conference on Education for Teaching (ICET), Nigeria Political Science Association (NPSA) and the Institute of Chartered Secretaries (Fellows).

As the Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Prof Eme-Uche has brought in her expertise knowledge to turn around the fortunes of Tertiary institutions in the state around.



### NGOZI BLESSING FELIX

(Commissioner, Ministry Of Poverty Alleviation And Social Protection)

**N**gozi Blessing Felix is a seasoned development expert with over 20 years of experience in governance, poverty alleviation, social protection, and human rights. She holds a Master's degree in Peace and Security Studies (Professional) and a Bachelor's degree in English and German Languages

from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN). Her extensive career in the international development sector includes serving with the European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS and working as a Communications Officer at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany. These roles have equipped her with a deep understanding of multilateral engagement and development communication.

Currently, as the Commissioner for Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, Mrs. Felix leads key initiatives aimed at enhancing the welfare of persons living with disabilities and other vulnerable populations.



### DR. MRS MAUREEN IJEOMA AGHUKWA

(Commissioner For Women Affairs)

**D**r. Mrs Maureen Ijeoma Aghukwa is an Optometrist by Profession. She holds a B.sc and OD in Optometry from the

University of Benin, (UniBen). Before her appointment as a Commissioner in Abia State, Dr. Aghukwa has worked with the Living Word Mission, Aba, Eye Clinic, Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic, Eye Clinic and the CEO of the Eye Connection Clinic. She is a Fellow of Professional bodies like, the Nigeria Optometric

Association and America Optometric Association.



**UMA-ONYEMENAM, NJUM NNENNAYA,** B.sc, CPIN, SIIN, MBA, FCTI, FCA, PHD Honoris Causa (Abia State Accountant-General)

**U**ma-Onyemenam, Njum Nnennaya is a Chartered Accountant and a seasoned finance Professional. She holds a Master's in Business Administration from Pan-African University, Lagos Business School, B.sc, Actuarial Science, UNILAG, and awarded a Ph.D Honoris ,Accounting & Finance from British American University. Prior to her appointment

as the Accountant -General of Abia State, she has held top managerial positions in some Financial companies like ; the Chief Finance Officer/General Manager, Heirs General Insurance, General Manager/Chief Finance Officer, NSIA Insurance etc.

Uma-Onyemenam has core competencies in the areas of Financial Analysis & Control, Performance Management, Business Planning & Management , Treasury & Tax Management, etc, and belongs to Professional bodies like the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria (CIIN), Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN) and Certified Pension Institute of Nigeria (CPIN). She is also a Board member of ICAN (Governing Council Member), Moniepoint Microfinance Bank (Director) and so on.



**HON. MRS MAGDALENE  
EGOND UGOANUSI**

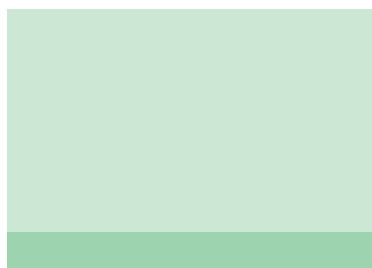
*(Senior Special Assistant to  
the Abia State Governor on  
Local Government and  
Chieftaincy Affairs)*

**M**rs Magdalene Egond Ugoanusi, is a grassroots mobiliser and a community developer. She holds a Masters degree in Business Administration

(MBA) from Ambrose Alli University, Edo State with several years experience in banking, IT and administration.

Mrs Ugoanusi has been a long time follower/ally of Dr. Alex Otti and served as the Assistant Director/Admin of Dr. Alex Otti campaign Organization during the last gubernatorial election in the state.

She is the MD of Avego Global LLC and navigates between USA and Nigeria for her businesses.



**PROFESSOR MRS  
IJEOMA IHUEKWUMERE**

*(Senior Special Assistant  
(Environment) to the Abia  
State Government)*

**P**rof. Mrs Ijeoma Ihuekwumere, holds a PhD in Environmental Microbiology from MOUAU, Masters of Science (M.sc) degree in Microbiology and a Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) degree in Industrial Microbiology from UNILAG and FUTO, respectively.

She is a thorough breed

Scholar who started her academic career as an Assistant Lecturer in the department of Microbiology, ABSU, and rose meticulously through the ranks to become a Professor of Microbiology.

Prof. Ihuekwumere has attended several academic and professional conferences both within and outside Nigeria where she has presented quality papers. A full time Faculty Member of Biological Sciences, ABSU, who has authored many journals and book chapters, Prof. belongs to several professional bodies like the Nigerian Society for Microbiology, American Society for Microbiology, Organization for women in science for the Developing world (OWSD) and many others.



**DR. NGOZI AZODOH,**

*(Special Adviser on  
Health & Chairperson,  
Abia Medical City)*

**D**r. Ngozi Rosemary Azodoh, is a Public Health Physician, and an experienced Coordinator of complex health projects with over 30 years experience of Service to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Before joining the services of Abia State Government, Dr. Azodoh, has worked a

Director/ Head of the Department of Health

Planning, Research and Statistics at the Federal Ministry of Health. Amongst other works, she served as the Health Sector Transition Director that managed the health sector component in the transition from Pres. Buhari administration to the present administration; Coordinated National Health policies and plans and was the first Director of International Health Cooperation for Nigeria and also led Nigeria's First Health Sector Humanitarian Emergency response and responsible for the development of the COVID-19 Pandemic Health Sector Response Action Plan (NAHCPRAP).



**DAME NGOZI  
NWAGBARA, PH.D**

*(Commissioner, Local  
Government Service  
Commission)*

**D**ame Ngozi Nwagbara, Ph.D, is a seasoned Educationist and currently, a Commissioner in the Local Government Service Commission, after serving as the first female Mayor, Ukwa East LGA, Abia state. A Retired Director, Curriculum Development, from Abia State Ministry of

Education, Dr. Nwagbara, holds both a Ph.D and M.sc in Educational Measurement & Evaluation from ABSU, and a B.sc in Education from UNN. As the first State Director of the National Teachers Institute (NTI), covering Abia and Imo states, she has contributed immensely to reshaping teacher development and upgrading educational standards across Abia state and beyond.

Dr. Nwagbara is a Fellow, Institute of Corporate Administration (FCIAI), Member, Nigeria Political Science Association (NPSA), Member, African Women in Leadership Network (AWLN) and a Recipient, Seal of Excellency and Mass Literacy Promotion Awards.







**MRS MATILDA CHINONYEREM ANYAMELE**

*(Special Assistant to the Governor on Arts, Culture and Creative Economy)*

**M**rs Matilda Anyamele holds a Masters (M.sc) and B.sc degrees in Mass Communication from Rhema University, Aba and Enugu State University of Science & Technology, Enugu, respectively.

She also has a PGDE from National Teachers Institute, Kaduna, a member of the Teachers Registration Council with over 15 years teaching experience.

Prior, to her appointment as the Senior Special Assistant to Gov. Alex Otti on Arts, Culture & Creative Economy, Mrs Anyamele has been a teacher, a public speaker, management consultant, a life coach and a mentor.



**BARR. JENNIFER AGBONMA UKAOBASI, FCIA**

*(Senior Special Assistant, Ease of Doing Business)*

**B**arr. Jennifer Agbonma Ukaobasi, is a seasoned legal practitioner and development advocate with over two decades of experience spanning Law, banking and the civil society. She is at the verge of completing her LL.M program and holds an Executive MBA (Business School, Netherlands), LL.B (ABSU)

and professional certifications including Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK), Diploma in French and Microfinance Certifications. She is also Fellows of the National Institute of Credit Administration (FCIA) and Institute of Administration.

Before her appointment as the SSA, Ease of Doing Business to Gov. Alex Otti, Barr. Ukaobasi has worked as Chamber Head, Blankson & Co., Branch Manager and Relationship Manager in some commercial banks. She is also the Executive Director, Youth Emancipation & Rehabilitation Foundation (YERF) an NGO and President GoldEdge Multipurpose Cooperative Society.



**DR. (MRS.) BETTY EMEKA-OBASI**

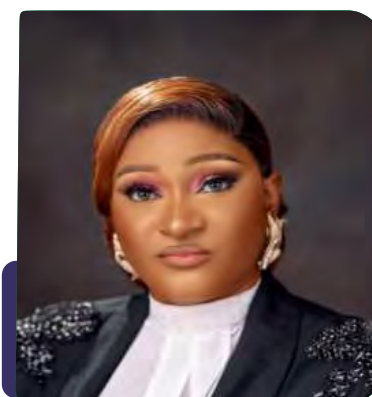
*(special Adviser, Special Duties And Administrator, Abia State Eye Health Management Bureau)*

**D**r. (Mrs.) Betty Emeka-Obasi is a Doctor of Optometry by Profession and holds a Certificate in Entrepreneurial Development from Lagos Business School.

With a rich career spanning

over 30 years, Dr. Emeka-Obasi is the co-founder of Just Vision and Palmgrove Pharmaceuticals. She has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Patrioni Ltd and the Hallmark Newspaper Group.

She also served as the Executive Secretary of the Public Policy Research and Analysis Centre (PPRAC) and is a lifelong learner and a member of the Nigerian Optometric Association (NOA).



**BARR. NKOLIKA CLEOPATRA UBANI, MC Arb, LL.M B.L**

*(Senior Special Assistant, Legal Matters and Secretary, Abia State Security Trust Fund)*

**B**arr. Nkolika Cleopatra Ubani doubles as the SSA on Legal Matters to Gov. Alex Otti and the Secretary of the State's Security Trust Fund,

a seasoned legal practitioner with over 15 years experience and a certified chartered Arbitrator.

She has worked as an Associate Partner at Nnamdi Chambers and as a Principal State Counsel, Department of Public Prosecution, Abia state Ministry of Justice.

Barr. Ubani belongs to numerous Professional Organisations including the International Bar Association, Nigeria Institute of Chartered Arbitrators, Institute of Chartered Arbitrators UK (Associate) and the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)



**MRS ONUOHA,  
EZIHE LYDIA,**

*(Executive Chairman, Abia State Universal Basic Education Board) (ASUBEB)*

**M**rs Onuoha, Ezihe Lydia, is the current chairman of ASUBEB.

She is a Ph.D student of Bayero University, Kano having obtained M.ed Language Education (English) and B.A.Ed., English Education, both from the Lagos State University. She also has certifications on Project Management Competence in School Improvement, Professional PMP and

Cambridge Education (Mott MacDonald). With over 33 years experience in the Nigerian Education sector with 17years of Classroom experience, Mrs Onuoha has worked on USAID funded projects like Leveraging Basic Education Board Resources (LEARN) as the Deputy Chief of Party, Global Book Alliance Action Project (GBALA) and so on.

She is also an Education consultant to UNICEF/ DFID Teacher Professional Development Project (TPD) and belongs to Professional Bodies like Project Management Institute of Nigeria, International Literacy Association (ILA), Professional English Teachers Network, Early Childhood Education Network, amongst others.



**DR. ODOCHI AMARACHI  
AZUBUIKE** MBBCh,

FMCPed  
*(Chief Executive, Abia State Hospitals Management Board)*

**D**r. Odochi Amarachi Azubuike, is a Consultant Paediatrician with over 18 years experience in clinical medicine, health from UNICAL, Dr.Azubuike started her clinical journey with Housemanship at University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, served

as a Medical Officer at Primary Health Centre Osisioma and did her Residency Training in Paediatrics at FMC, Owerri. She became a Fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, Faculty of Pediatrics (FMCPaed) and continued to serve as a Consultant Paediatrics before her appointment by Gov. Alex Otti as the Chief Executive of the Hospitals Management Board.

Dr. Azubuike is an active members of Paediatric Association of Nigeria, the Child Neurology Association and the Medical Women Association of Nigeria.



**REV. DR. ANNIE ONU**

*(Executive Secretary, Abia State Diaspora Commission, ADCOM)*

**R**ev.Dr. Annie Onu holds a B.A Hons Theology (University of Manchester), B.A Hons Combined Education Studies (University of East London) and BT New Ham College Business and Finance.

• June 1996: New Ham College Business and

Finance, BT

• April 1996: Jobwise Administrative Course Switchboard/Reception

• September 1993: Information Technology RSA, Computer Literacy, and Information Technology

• 1982 – 1985: O-levels, Ogbakiri Secondary School, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

• 1973-1978: First Living School certificate, Arochukwu Primary School Atani, Abia State Nigeria.

Other Experiences

CACCOU Family Services, Senior Support Worker (July 2023-January 2024)

• Provide guidance, interaction, and support to young adults alongside the families, creating a safe environment that promotes their social,

emotional and spiritual needs. Provides mentoring and coaching to young adults to support them through life challenges.

Rev. Dr. Annie Onu has also attended many professional courses abroad before her appointment as the *Executive Secretary, Abia State Diaspora Commission, ADCOM*) by His Excellency Dr. Alex Otti OFR. Nzuko Aro Women Wing Recognition

• In recognition of her faithfulness and distinguished traits of motherhood in the house of God and society.

The Nzuko Aro women wing appreciated this gesture with the award of Nneoma Aro Okeigbo. (23rd October 2021)

Also The Diocese of

Arochukwu/ Ohafia (Anglican Communion) Cathedral Church of All Saints Ugwuafor Arochukwu recognised Rev. Dr. Annie Onu as an "Excellent Mother" because of her passionate selfless service and commitment to God and Humanity on day 27th March 2022.

Other Awards

• Doctorate Honours, Ruth international New York

Lions Club Canada, Certificate award 2023

• Rotary Club United Kingdom

• Nollywood Award 2023.

• Hobby/ Interest

• Real Estate

Development/Management

• Humanitarian Service

• Reading

• Traveling





**DR.ULOAKU EMMA-UKAEGBU**

*(Director-General, Abia State Agency for The Control of HIV/AIDS (ABSACA))*

**D**r.Uloaku Emma-Ukaegbu is a Public Health Physician and Field Epidemiologist with a bias for Reproductive health and HIV/AIDS control. She is a Consultant in Community Medicine Department of Federal Medical Centre, Umuahia but currently serving as the DG.,ABSACA,

and the Co-ordinator of Abia state led free medical outreaches.

Dr. Ukaegbu consults for CDC AFENET (African Epidemiology Network), lectures medical students of Gregory University on adjunct basis, a member of National Postgraduate College of Physicians, Fellow and Examiner for West African College of Physicians (FWACP), member , Nigeria Medical Association (NMA), Member, Medical women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN) and member of the National Institute of Policy and Strategic studies (NIPSS).



**MRS VICTORIA DIBUMMA ONWUBIKO**

*(Managing Director/CEO, Abia State Structures for Signages & Advertising Agency, (ABSAAA)).*

**M**rs Victoria Dibumma Onwubiko is an accomplished marketing and brand strategy executive with over 20 years experience across diverse industries including FMCG, Telecoms, banking, advertising, electronic payments etc. She holds a BA in communication from UNN,

a diploma in Marketing, a Master's in Social Work from LASU and an MBA in Marketing from the University of Leicester, UK.

Prior to joining the public service in 2018, Mrs Onwubiko has held high leadership positions in the Private sector including Chief Marketing Officer at Wekanow, Head of Brand Management at First Bank Nigeria and so on.

She is a member of Advertising Practitioners (APCON) and Nigerian Institute of Marketing of Nigeria (NIMN).



**LADY OGE MADUKA**

*(MCArb, MICMC) , Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs.*

**S**he is a Chartered Mediator and Chartered Arbitrator, and holds the following degrees:

MA - Law and Diplomacy (University of Science and Technology), Master of Business Administration (FUTO)

PGD - Business Management Technology (FUTO) and a Bachelor of Law degree (ABSU). She is a member of the Nigerian Bar Association, Amnesty International volunteer, United Nations Volunteer, Member Nigerian Institute of Chartered Arbitrators, Member Institute of Chartered Mediators, Member Association of Women in at, among others. International Development.



**MRS UZOAMAKA AMAH- MBAH (PH.D)**

*(Board Secretary, Abia State Universal Basic Education Board, (ASUBEB)).*

**D**r. Mrs Uzoamaka Amah- Mbah holds a Ph.D in Political Science (Development Studies), M.sc in Public Administration, Post graduate Diploma in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Arts, English.

Dr. Amah, before her appointment as the board Secretary, ASUBEB, was a member of Dr. Alex Otti's Transition council and Chairman, Sub task Committee on Social transformation and human capital development, Senior Legislative Aide (Women Gender matters) to President of the Senate and other senior political positions.

The CEO of Noram Consultancy Ltd, She is an Associate Member of Professional bodies like the American Management Association (AMA) and the Nigeria Institute of Management (NIM).



**URE ABASI**

*Director, Abia State Orientation Agency)*

**U**re Abazi is a seasoned project manager with a solid background in Environmental Management, currently concluding her Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Environmental Pollution Studies at the Centre for Marine Pollution, Monitoring and Seafood Safety (CEMPOS), University of Port Harcourt. She began her career in the banking sector, where she built a reputation for excellence, before transitioning into the

construction and real estate industry. As the in-country partner for Rhino Linings, South Africa, Ure introduced cutting-edge waterproofing and anti-corrosion technologies that significantly elevated construction standards for both government and corporate projects across Nigeria.

Currently serving as the Director-General of the Abia State Orientation Agency, she has reinvigorated the agency's mandate by promoting civic responsibility, strengthening community engagement, and aligning public perception with the state's development objectives.



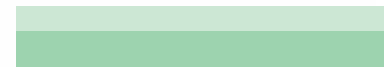
**PASTOR ENO EBELE JERRY EZE, PhD**

*(Chairman Civil Service Commission)*

**P**astor Eno Ebele Jerry Eze, PhD., is a distinguished Human Resources Management Expert with over 18years in human resources that cut across a wide range of experience in various aspects of Human Resources spanning oil and Gas, health and Food manufacturing. With a PhD in Human Resource Management (ESUT Business School), MA International Human Resources Management (University of Greenwich, London), MBA Entrepreneurial Management (Entrepreneurial Institute

of Australia) and BA English (ABSU), Dr. Eno Jerry Eze has worked as the Human Resources Manager at Niger Mills, Calabar and Flour Mills of Nigeria; Lecturer in the Department of Industrial Relations & Personnel Management (IRPM), MOUAU and as an Administrator in Havard Plus at National Root Crops Research Institute, Umudike. She is also the Chief Executive Officer of Jeno Management Solutions, a Human Resources Consulting Firm and the Resident Pastor, Streams of Joy, Umuahia.

Dr.Mrs Eze is a member of Professional bodies, including Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM), Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM), Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development,(CIPD) and National Institute of Management.



**CHIBUZOR ELIZABETH**

**CHINYERE CHIJOKE**  
*(Special Assistant, Digital Economy)*

**C**hibuzo Chinyere Chijioke is a student of Politics, Policy and Governance, an Aluma of the McKinsey Forward Africa Programme, the Platform Young Professionals Bootcamp and a graduate of LEAP Africa's young womenleadership programme. She is a

multi-skilled professional with strong background in digital transformation, tech policy advocacy and innovation. She has to her credit, the training of over 5,000 individuals in digital literacy, soft skills and tech-driven opportunities; enabling over 3,000 business owners to scale using Meta

Technologies, unlocking new markets and digital revenue streams and so on.

Chibuzor is a Google women Tech makers Ambassador and a Volunteer with Junior Chamber International where she presides over the local chapter inAba.







**MRS. EKE NGOZI OGBONNAYA-UGWO**

(Abia State, Auditor General)

**M**rs. Eke Ngozi Ogbonnaya-Ugwo began her career in public service as an Accountant II and rose through the ranks to become a Director of Finance, culminating in her appointment as the State Auditor-General.

She holds a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in

Accounting from Abia State University (ABSU), a Master of Business Administration (MBA), and a Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike.

Mrs. Ogbonnaya-Ugwo is a distinguished member of both the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) and the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants, reflecting her strong professional grounding and commitment to excellence in public financial management.



**IJEOMA CLARA DIM**

(Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Productivity)

**M**rs Ijeoma Clara Dim has her first degree from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN). To further improve herself, she went ahead to obtain a Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) and a Masters degree in Public Administration

(MPA) from the University of Calabar. She is a member, Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM).

Mrs Dim Rose through the ranks and files of the service to the position of a director and subsequently appointed a Permanent Secretary in 2023.

She has continued to play vital roles to ensure that Visions of Gov.Otti in the 'New Abia Mantra' is realised in the Ministry of Labour and Productivity.



**ELECHI OBI-CHIANAKWALAM**

Permanent Secretary  
Ministry Of Finance.

**E**lechi Obi-Chianakwalam holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

She is a Fellow of the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN).

She began her career in the Abia State Civil Service as an Accountant II on Grade Level 08. Through dedication and excellence, she rose through the ranks and was appointed Director of Finance in 2016. In recognition of her outstanding service, she was appointed Permanent Secretary in November, 2023.



**MRS MAGDALENE KALU ONWU**

(Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning)

**M**rs Magdalene Kalu Onwu holds a Master of Science (M.sc) in

Public Health, a PGD Administration and a B.sc in Health Education. Prior to her appointment as a Permanent Secretary in 2023, she was the Acting Executive Secretary, Abia State Primary Health Care Development Agency, Director of Health Education and the state Programme Officer, 'health education'.



**DR. EZINNE JUDITH NGWAKWE**

*(Permanent Secretary, Local Government Service Commission)*

**D**r. Ezinne Judith Ngwakwe holds a doctorate degree (Ph) in Education from Michael Okpara University, Umudike, having previously

obtained her Bsc and Msc in the same profession from Abia state University and Imo state University, Owerri respectively. She is a member of the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN).

Since her deployment to the Local Government Service Commission is the Perm.Sec, Dr. Ngwakwe has repositioned the commission to an enviable height in tandem with Gov. Otti's vision for the New Abia.



**PASTOR MRS JANE MAXWELL IGWE**

*(Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Commerce)*

**M**rs Jane Maxwell Igwe, is a seasoned commercial officer with core competence in commercial administration and communication, public relations, customer relationship

She holds an MBA in marketing, HND and ND in mass communication, PGDE and PGD in management.

Prior to her elevation as a Perm. Sec. in the state civil service, Mrs Igwe served as the Director of Commerce in Abia state Ministry of Trade & Commerce.



**MRS UCHECHUKWU KALU**

*(Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education)*

**M**rs Uchechukwu Kalu is a thorough bred educationist with a master's degree (M.ed) in Educational administration and

planning from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike. She started her career on grade level 8 and through dint of hard work, commitment and dedication to service rose to the position of Permanent Secretary in Nov 2023.



**NWAYIEZE OBIOMA OTUM (MRS)**

*(Permanent Secretary, Min. of Power and Public Utilities)*

**M**rs Nwayieze Obioma Otum started her career as an Administrative officer 11, in Abia state Independent Electoral

Commission (ABSIEC), before her integration into the Abia state civil service. Along her career path, she has served as Secretary in various committees, panels and worked in various World Bank Assisted Projects.

Prior, to her elevation as a Permanent Secretary, Mrs Otum was the project coordinator, Abia IDEAS, a World Bank Assisted Project and the Acting Head of Service (HOS).





**CHIBUZO IJEOMA  
EHIEMERE Esq** (LL.B.  
B.L)  
(Permanent  
Secretary, Min. Of  
Arts, Culture and  
Creative Economy)

**M**rs Chibuzo Ijeoma Ehiemere is a seasoned legal practitioner and a member of the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA)

and the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA, Abia state). She has served as a Director, Estate & Trust Department, Ministry of Justice, Abia State and Director of Public Prosecution, Ministry of Justice, Abia State before her appointment as a Permanent Secretary in the State Civil Service.



**MRS EKEOMA  
CHIGOZIE AKIDI**  
(Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Poverty  
Reduction & Social  
Protection)

**M**rs Ekeoma Chigozie Akidi is a graduate of Social work and Community & Community Development from the University As a student, she worked as a Volunteer for Methodist Church Nigeria of Nigeria, Nsukka. Centre for Mentally ill Destitute

Home, Amaudo Itumbauzo.

Mrs Akidi joined the Abia state Civil Service when she was given an Automatic Employment she got after her NYSC in 1998. She was posted to the Methodist Church Nigeria Mentally ill Destitute home, Amaudo Itumbauzo as the Community Psychiatric.

From there, she was posted as a Mobilization Officer to Abia State Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS, (ABSACA) where she later became a Director and subsequently appointed a Permanent Secretary by Dr. Alex Otti.



**ESTHER CHIOMA  
AJAH**  
(Special Assistant to  
the Governor  
on  
Climate Change &  
Sustainability)

**E**sther Chioma Ajah holds a Master's (M.sc) in Environmental Management (Biodiversity) from Nigeria Defence Academy and a B.sc in Geography &

Environmental Management, IMSU. She has work experiences as a Lead Consultant, Carbon Market and ESG, Consultant, Sustainability Nigeria Limited and the Founder, Climate Conner Ventures.

Ajah is a Fellow of Africa Finance Cooperation Carbon Market, Africa Innovative Fellowship for Women in STEM and a member of the Nigerian Environmental Society.



**ADAOJIE OBINMA  
UKANDU Esq., MCarb.**  
LL.B, B.L  
(Perm. Sec., Office of  
the Head of Service)

**A**daojie Obinma Ukandu, is a seasoned Legal Practitioner. She became a State Counsel in the Abia State Civil Service in 2005, became a Director, Legal Service, Ministry of Justice to Director,

Estate and Trust Department / Administrator General of Abia state before her appointment as a Permanent Secretary in 2024. Ukandu is a member of Professional Bodies like the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Nigeria Institute of Chartered Arbitrators (NCArb), International Bar Association (IBA), Christian Lawyers Association of Nigeria (CLASFON) and so on.



**DR. IFEYINWA BLOSSOM UMA-KALU**  
(Permanent Secretary  
ministry of Health).

**D**r. Ifeyinwa Blossom Uma-Kalu is a Medical Doctor by training. She graduated from Abia state University Medical School, holds a Post Graduate Diploma Certificate (PGD) in Psychology from University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN)

and at the verge of completing her Masters degree in Counselling Psychology.

A member of Professional bodies like the Nigeria Medical Association (NMA), the Medical Women Association of Nigeria and the Nigeria Psychology Association (NPA).

Since her appointment as a Permanent Secretary, Dr. Ifeyinwa Uma-Kalu has contributed significantly towards the transformational Agenda of Gov. Alex Otti, especially in the health sector.



**IJEOMA ADANMA AGUWA, Ph.D**  
(Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture)

**D**r. Ijeoma Adanma Aguwa, holds a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Industrial Relations & Personnel Management from MOUAU, after obtaining her M.sc in Industrial Sociology and B.sc in Sociology from ABSU and IMSU, respectively.

Dr. Aguwa has been a Director of Administration in the Abia State House of Assembly, Education Secretary (Umuahia North LGA Education Authority) and served in many boards and committees before her appointment as a Permanent Secretary in the Abia State Civil Service.



**CHINYERE JULIET OKEZIEM-NWOKE Esq.**  
MCI Arb, MALdrap  
(Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Tertiary  
Education)

**B**arr. Chinyere Juliet Okeziem-Nwoke is a Legal

Practitioner with 25 years post call experience. As a seasoned lawyer, she has her core competence in the areas of Litigation and Dispute Resolution, Arbitration & Mediation, Contract Negotiation & Drafting, Legal Draftsman & Management Consulting, resolving complex disputes through ADR techniques, etc.

She was the pioneer Director of Training, Ministry of Justice and has held strategic positions in FDA and NBA.

Barr. Okeziem-Nwoke belongs to Professional bodies like the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), International Bar Association, International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) and Fellows of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

(MCIArb) and Association of Legislating Drafting and Advocacy Practitioners (ALDrp). She is a member of the Governing Council of ABSU, Abia State College of Education (Technical), Arochukwu and the Vice-President, National Association of Catholic.





**AWA JANE OLANMA**  
 Esq. MCI Arb, FIMC  
 (Permanent Secretary,  
 Ministry of Transport)

**A**wa Jane Olanma is a seasoned legal practitioner with over 25 years post call experience, who has established herself as a seasoned Lawyer, Arbitrator, Mediator and a management Consultant. Her area of expertise includes Litigation

and Complex Dispute Resolution, Arbitration and Mediation, Contract Negotiation and drafting, etc.

A one time Head of Mediation, Ministry of Justice, Abia state, Awa Olanma is a member of Professional bodies like the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), International Bar Association, FIDA and a Fellow of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (MCI Arb), Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators (FICMC), Institute of Management Consultants (FIMC) and Certified Management Consultant (CMC).



**ENGR. MRS JUSTINA OLUCHI EBOH**  
 (Permanent Secretary Min. of Science, Technology and Innovation)

**E**ngr. Mrs Justina Oluchi Eboh holds a Master's degree in Computer Science (UNICAL), a Post Graduate Diploma in Information & Computer Technology (FUTO) and Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science & Engineering (ESUT).

She started her career with the Abia State Civil service as a System Analyst, served as the Network Engineer/Assistant Chief System Analyst at the Abia Health System Development Project (ABHSDP) and continued as the Database Administrator at Abia Health Insurance Scheme.

She later joined the State Program Implementation Unit (SPIU HIV/AIDS program) under the

Ministry of Health as an IT specialist and later promoted as a Director, Program Analyst. Engr. Eboh, appointed as the Zonal Statistician, National MPDSR platform by Federal Ministry of Health, Department of family health, Abuja. Served as the Administrative Secretary and later on, Secretary, Judicial Panel of Inquiry for the Recovery of Government Properties, Funds and Related Matters.

She was later appointed as a Permanent Secretary in 2023 by Gov. Alex Otti. Engr. Eboh has many certifications in health, technology and project management and belongs to professional bodies like the Nigeria Women in Information Technology (NWIIT), Nigeria Computer Society (NCS), Nigeria Society of Engineers (NSE) and Computer Profession of Nigeria (CPN).



**MRS. AHUCHAOGU EKELE QUEEN**  
 Commissioner, Abia State Independent Electoral Commission (ABSIEC)

**M**rs. Ahuchaogu Ekele Queen is a graduate of Accounting from Enugu State

University of Science and Technology and holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) from Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto.

She is a member of professional bodies such as the Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria.

Mrs. Ahuchaogu has worked in both the private and public sectors prior to her appointment as a commissioner in ABSIEC by Dr. Alex Otti.



**DEACONESS  
CHIOMA  
NWOGWUGWU**  
(Board Member 11,  
ASUBEB)

**D**eaconess Nwogwugwu served as the former President, Women in Action for Development and is a certified member of the following professional bodies;

Nigeria Union of Teachers, Home Economics Teachers Association of Nigeria (HETAN) and Nigeria Association of Guidance Counsellors. Deaconess Chioma Nwogwugwu, holds a Master's in Educational Administration & Planning, M.Ed (UNICAL), B.Ed Guidances and Counselling (UNN) and National Certificate in Education (NCE) and retired as a Principal Special Class from the Abia state civil service.



**MRS IFEOMA  
OBIAGELI VIVIAN  
AGU**  
(Member, Civil Service  
Commission)

**M**rs Ifeoma Obiageli Vivian Agu, holds a Master of Divinity degree from Hugh Goldie Lay/Theological Training Institute, Arochukwu and a Bachelor of Arts (B.A HONS, English Language), University of Jos, Plateau State. She retired as a Permanent Secretary from the Abia state civil service having served as the

Permanent Secretary in the following ministries; Min.of Transport, Min.of Housing and Urban development, Min.of Works & Transport, Office of the SSG and Perm.Sec, Government House after being the Director of Administration, Office of the Head of Service (HOS). She also worked in the Local Government Service Commission as Head of Service, head of Personnel Management in some local government areas of the state.

Mrs Agu is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Prey Management (CIPM) and currently a member of the Abia State Civil Service Commission.



**DR. CHIOMA  
PATIENCE ORIKARA**  
(Member, Abia State  
Civil Service  
Commission)

**D**r. Chioma Patience Orikara is a Multi-skilled Financial Manager with extensive experience in strategic, operational and change management

across finance divisions and wider businesses. She holds a Ph.D in Banking & Finance, M.sc Banking & Finance, M.sc Agricultural Economics (all from MOUAU) and a B.sc in Accountancy from ABSU. Dr. Orikara was a beneficiary of the National Youth Service Meritorious Award and subsequently got an automatic employment as an Accounting Officer with the Abia state Civil Service. In the course of her service, she worked in the Ministry of Agriculture, Office of the Accountant-General, Ministry of

Finance, Budget & Planning and the State Internal Revenue Services where she retired as a Director. She also served in numerous sensitive committees and belongs to several professional bodies including the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Association of

National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN), Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria (FRCN), Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN), Chartered Institute of Forensic and Certified Fraud Investigators of Nigeria (CIFCFIN), etc.





## DE LATINOS CONCEPTS LIMITED



**His Excellency  
Dr. Alex Chioma Otti (OFR)**  
Executive Governor, Abia State

Your Excellency,

On behalf of De Latinos, I extend our warmest congratulations and deep appreciation to you for your exemplary leadership and outstanding performance as the Executive Governor of Abia State.

Your commitment to infrastructural development, economic growth, youth empowerment, and transparent governance has not only brought renewed hope to the people of Abia but has also positioned the state as a model for progressive leadership in Nigeria.

Your vision, dedication, and tireless efforts are evident in the transformational strides being made across the state, from improved road networks and healthcare services to the revitalization of education and support for local industries. These achievements speak volumes of a leader truly in touch with the aspirations of the people.

As you continue to steer Abia State on the path of sustainable development and inclusive growth, We pray for continued wisdom, strength, and divine guidance. May your tenure leave a lasting legacy that generations to come will look upon with pride and gratitude.

Once again, congratulations, Your Excellency. Abia is indeed rising under your leadership.

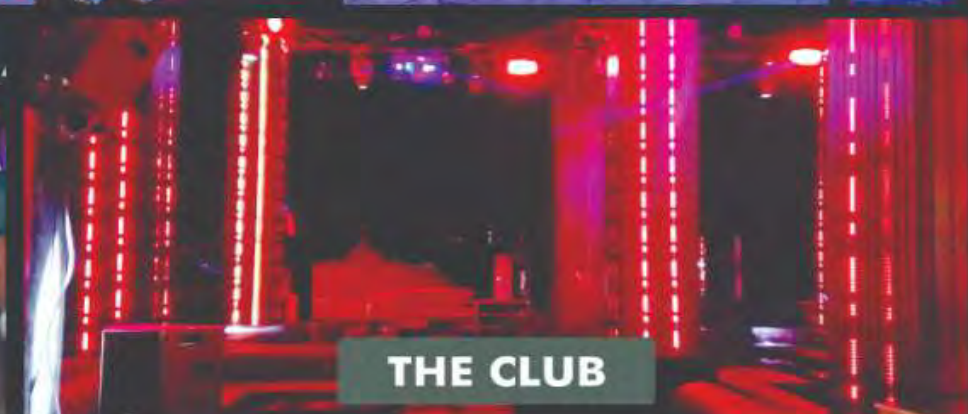
**SIGNED**  
**EMMANUEL OKENINI (E-BELLO)**  
Chief Executive Officer  
De Latinos Concepts Limited







## DE LATINOS CONCEPTS LIMITED



**De Latinos Arena**  
17 BCA Road, Umuahia, Abia State.  
Tel: +234 803 887 0604, +234 806 396 6697



## SPOTLIGHT ON ABIA STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD



**Lady Mrs. Ezihe Lydia Onuoha**  
 Executive Chairman  
 The Abia State Universal Basic Education Board

# Overview

## OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF Abia State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB)

LAST- FIRST QUARTER 2024/2025

**T**he Abia State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB), established in December 2004 through the Abia State House of Assembly Law No. 9, is mandated to manage and enhance the quality of basic education across the state. Its scope encompasses primary, nomadic, and junior secondary schools, with 17 Local Government Education Authorities (LGEAs) operating under its jurisdiction. In alignment with the National Universal Basic Education (UBE) Act 2004, ASUBEB is dedicated to ensuring accessible, equitable, and high-quality education for all children in Abia State.

In 2024, ASUBEB undertook significant steps to transform education in Abia State, aligning its activities with the vision of His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chíoma Otti. The Board revised its vision and mission, focusing on providing inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education through strategic partnerships, continuous teacher development, and innovative educational practices. This initiative also involved the first-ever Diagnostic Survey and Assessment of Basic Education across the 17 LGAs, which highlighted key challenges, such as inadequate literacy and numeracy skills among pupils, and inefficiencies in school leadership.

Through these comprehensive efforts, ASUBEB continues to advance the standard of basic education in Abia State, with a focus on teacher development, infrastructural improvements, and inclusive educational policies aimed at enhancing the learning experience for every child.

### Achievements 2024/2025

To address these issues, ASUBEB initiated a major reshuffling of over 500 head teachers and launched the Abia State School Enhancement Team (ASSET), focused on improving school leadership and teacher quality. The state also secured N8.57 billion from the Universal Basic Education Federal Government Matching Grant, earmarked for the construction of classrooms, provision of pupil seats, and teacher training across the State.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ABIA STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD



Inauguration Of Abia State School Enhancement TEAM(ASSET). Mandate: To Provide Support To Classroom Teachers Daily



■ Board Member During The Inauguration Of Abia State School Enhancement Team (ASSET).



On 2nd – 3rd April 2025, the process of domesticating the National School-Based Management Committee (SBMC) policy; to enhance education governance and strengthen community involvement in schools.

Establishment of 20 Model Smart Schools Across the 17 LGAs. Under the visionary leadership of His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, the Abia State Universal Basic Education Board has successfully overseen the establishment of twenty (20) Model Smart Schools strategically located across the 17 LGAs of Abia State.

These state-of-the-art educational facilities are designed to promote digital literacy, foster innovation, and provide a conducive learning environment in line with global best practices.

Recruitment of 5,000 Teachers to Enhance Quality of Education; In a decisive move to address teacher shortages and improve learning outcomes, ASUBEB, with the support of the Abia State Government under the stewardship of Dr Alex Chioma Otti, facilitated the recruitment of 5,000 qualified teachers. This strategic intervention aims to strengthen the delivery of quality education across public basic schools in the state and ensure equitable access to competent instructional personnel in both rural and urban areas.

On 19th February 2025, appointment and inauguration of Education Secretaries from all 17 LGAs, reinforcing leadership in basic education management.

The just concluded 500o teacher recruitment exercise to enhance teaching and learning in our school

22nd January 2025, ASUBEB in collaboration with Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) Abuja, organised a Capacity Building Workshop for the Board members, Secretary and top management staff of Procurement, Finance and Physical Planning departments/units, where the staff were trained on Public Procurement procedures.

Earlier in January 2025, master trainers were trained for the upcoming digital school census in partnership with the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE), enhancing digital data management.

14th March, training of the 17 local government education secretaries on implementation of transformative policy reforms, orientation retreat at Benpar Umuahia, the training is to enhance the education sector and equip the education secretaries with the necessary skills to effectively oversee primary and secondary education in their respective LGAs

13th March 2025, the verification exercise of all tutorial none non-tutorial staff aims to establish a comprehensive digital database, and is designed to



## SPOTLIGHT ON ABIA STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD

authenticate staff credentials, ensure proper documentation, and assign unique identification numbers to all employees. This is to streamline records, enhance accountability, access staff competency and engage directly with ASUBEB staff across the 17 LGAs.

- ASUBEB's training initiatives have seen remarkable results, including the training of 2,000 Master Trainers, 1,170 teachers in key areas, and 1,115 teachers in contemporary instructional methods. The Board has also initiated extensive infrastructure upgrades, marking over 100 school buildings for renovation and securing funds for classroom expansions and library construction.

- In its efforts to ensure transparency and inclusivity, ASUBEB established an all-inclusive Tenders Board in compliance with the 2007 Procurement Act. This ensures proper management of resources and fosters accountability in all education-related projects.

- The distribution of 10,000 textbooks in core subjects, along with 100,000 exercise books donated by the First Lady of Abia State, Mrs. Priscilla Chidimma Otti. The Board also successfully advocated for the reinstatement of the Federal Government's Disarticulation Policy in the state, which will facilitate the implementation of over 20 Federal Education Policies.

- In 2025, ASUBEB plans to conduct its Annual School Census after an 18-year hiatus, procure additional tablets, and continue to prioritise the implementation of UBE grants and quality teaching. ASUBEB also aims to enhance school security, foster community and donor engagement, and create a technology-driven learning environment.

- Between July and December 2024, ASUBEB utilised N8.5 billion from UBEC matching grants for infrastructure development, including classrooms and libraries. Additionally, in January 2024, running costs were allocated to schools—N50,000 for primary and N100,000 for junior secondary schools—supporting daily operations and promoting financial autonomy.

- In April 2024, ASUBEB organised cluster-based training for Project Implementation Sub-Committees (PISCs), focusing on financial management and monitoring. This enhanced local capacity for effective project execution. The same month, 1,115 teachers across the state were trained in inclusive education and SBMC roles in collaboration with CSOs, SMOE, and SUBEB. Additionally, the National Reading Framework was disseminated through workshops in Abuja, boosting literacy program implementation.

- ASUBEB conducted mid-term monitoring and evaluation of SBMC-SIP projects in August 2024, identifying early challenges and facilitating timely adjustments. In September 2024, a school enrolment drive campaign was launched, mobilising SBMC and LGEA officers to boost enrolment in public basic schools by raising awareness among parents.

- ASUBEB submitted a State Needs Assessment Report in October 2024 after evaluating infrastructure and



facilities statewide. This was used in SIP planning and resource mobilisation. In November 2024, the National School-Based Management Policy (NSBMP) was domesticated, aligning community governance structures with national standards.

- February 2024 included a comprehensive needs assessment of public basic schools across the state, submitted to UBEC online. This helped identify gaps for targeted interventions. ASUBEB also participated in the Global School-Based Student Health Survey in March 2024, integrating findings into health policy and hygiene education in schools.

- A memo was submitted in May 2024 for the procurement of school furniture to address shortages, and budget monitoring and evaluation activities were carried out between May and June 2024 to ensure proper fund utilisation. Collaboration with departments like Physical Planning and Quality Assurance between June and July 2024 improved coordination in decision-making and school management.

- ASUBEB continually responded to public requests



## SPOTLIGHT ON ABIA STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD



for school data throughout 2024, enhancing transparency and policy support. In January 2024, the 1st Term School Monitoring exercise ensured effective school reopening, while a February 2024 verification of mobility and equipment guaranteed proper asset management.

- Between March and April 2024, general quality assurance evaluations and 1st term exam monitoring took place to assess curriculum, teaching quality, and examination integrity. During the same period, 102 school buildings were marked for renovation following structural assessments, preparing them for infrastructure upgrades

- In January 2024, schools across the 17 Local Government Education Authorities (LGEAs) submitted proposals for the SBMC-SIP project 2023/2024, prioritising infrastructure and learning material needs. This initiative yielded ready-to-fund proposals from community-led school initiatives, forming the basis for strategic SBMC support.

- March 2024 saw a verification exercise across the 17 LGEAs to validate the data and proposals submitted by schools. This process improved transparency and led to the qualification of 30 schools for SBMC-SIP support, strengthening project credibility. That same month, enrolment documentation was carried out, including biometric verification, to accurately assess learner numbers for planning and funding purposes.

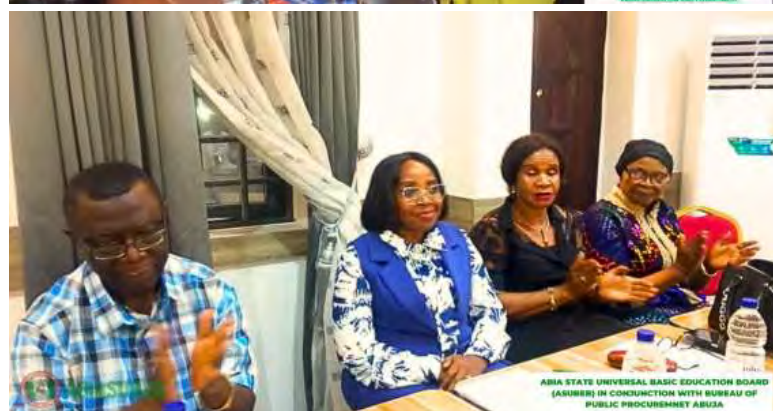
- In February 2024, ASUBEB coordinated advocacy and sensitisation meetings at the state level in Umuahia, involving CSOs and other stakeholders. These efforts enhanced awareness about the roles and responsibilities of School-Based Management Committees (SBMCs), increasing community participation in school governance.

### New Vision

*To become a leading institution in delivering inclusive, equitable, and high-quality basic education that empowers every child in Abia State to reach their full potential and build a lifelong foundation for learning.*

### New Mission

*To provide all children in Abia State with access to high-quality basic education through strategic partnerships, continuous teacher development, skills acquisition, effective governance, and innovative educational practices.*





## SPOTLIGHT ON ABIA STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD

# FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION IN ABIA STATE: A NEW DAWN FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

By Ekeoma Lekwauwa

**T**he reintroduction and restoration of free and compulsory education in Abia State is one of the most progressive and people-oriented policies of the present administration led by His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti (OFR). After many years of abandonment, this bold initiative signals a renewed commitment to human capital development, which places Abia State on the path of educational justice, inclusive growth, and long-term prosperity.

Free and compulsory education plays a critical role in nation-building. It eliminates the barriers of poverty, inequality, and ignorance, three major obstacles that hinder the progress of societies. Education equips individuals with the knowledge and skills to contribute meaningfully to their communities and the economy. As Nelson Mandela aptly stated, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." This vision is now being boldly implemented in Abia State, where the government is ensuring that every child, regardless of socio-economic status, has the right and opportunity to be educated.

The significance of making education both free and compulsory cannot be overstated. When children are guaranteed access to schooling, it reduces the incidence of child labour, street hawking, and early marriages, social ills that plague many developing societies. Moreover, an educated population leads to a more informed citizenry, better healthcare outcomes, reduced crime rates, and a stronger democratic culture. With this landmark policy, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti is not only investing in the classroom but in the very future of Abia State.

A vital component of this educational renaissance is the approval and disbursement of monetary intervention to both primary and secondary schools across the state as running costs; this financial intervention empowers schools to manage daily operations more efficiently, cater to urgent needs, and enhance learning conditions. To redefine the

Abia state education dynamism, the education-friendly Governor Dr. Alex Chioma Otti approved the recruitment and intensive training of over 2,000 teachers specifically for these Smart Schools. These educators have been equipped with 21st-century teaching skills, digital tools, and pedagogical methodologies to deliver modern education in line with global standards. In addition to strengthening this revolution, the Government recruited 5,000 qualified teachers to improve the teacher-pupil ratio, thereby enhancing learning outcomes across our public schools. It is a clear demonstration of fiscal responsibility and administrative foresight, ensuring that the policy goes beyond paper to a tangible impact.

Additionally, His Excellency's appointment of seasoned educators and administrators to lead the education sector reflects his high regard for expertise and capacity. The Hon. Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Elder Goodluck Chinedu Ubochi, and Abia State Universal Basic Education Board Members, led by the Executive Chairman, Lady Mrs. Ezihe Lydia Onuoha, have shown strong leadership, passion, and synergy in piloting these reforms. Their collaboration is top-notch, driving policy implementation, infrastructural development, teacher training, and effective monitoring with visible results.

This comprehensive transformation is already yielding dividends. Enrollments are increasing, learning environments are improving, and there is renewed confidence in public education. Education friendly Governor Dr. Alex Chioma Otti OFR has truly repositioned education as a right, not a privilege, for every child in Abia.

As the saying goes, "When you educate a child today, you build the nation tomorrow." With this revitalised focus on free and compulsory education, the Otti administration has ushered in a New Era and a New Abia one where the future is built in classrooms, and no child is left behind.



**THE PEOPLES' PARLIAMENT**  
*Congratulates*  
**DR. ALEX CHIOMA OTTI OFR**  
**EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE,**  
**ON HIS SECOND ANNIVERSARY IN OFFICE**

**T**he Peoples' Parliament, an advocacy group committed to the promotion of good governance, joyfully extends its warmest

congratulations to **His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR**, Executive Governor of Abia State, on the momentous occasion of his second anniversary in office, marked on May 29, 2025.

The Peoples' Parliament applauds the massive infrastructural and economic development currently underway in the State under your stewardship. Of particular note is the remarkable improvement in security, especially in the border local government area of Umunneochi, which had long suffered neglect.

Your promise to rehabilitate the long-abandoned Mmam Bridge, a vital link between Abia and Enugu States, is a bold and strategic move that reflects your deep understanding of regional integration and economic growth. This milestone is not just a celebration of time, but a testament to the transformative and visionary leadership that Your Excellency has brought to bear on Abia State. In just two years, your administration has distinguished itself through purposeful governance, characterized by transparency, accountability, and an unwavering commitment to the welfare of the people.

Your Excellency's people-focused policies and dedication to development have not gone unnoticed. The Peoples' Parliament is proud to stand in solidarity with your administration and hereby pledges its unwavering support as you continue to pursue the noble mission of transforming Abia State.

We also use this occasion to pray that the Almighty God will continue

to endow you with divine wisdom, strength, courage, and sound health as you lead Abia State to greater heights.

Once again, congratulations on your second anniversary in office. The future is bright, and the people of Abia State are indeed blessed to have you as their governor.

Long live Abia State! Long live Dr. Alex Otti!! Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!!

*Signed For:*

**The Peoples' Parliament**

- 1. Chief Richard Ikpe**- National Chairman
- 2. Chief Kingsley Madu**- Deputy National Chairman
- 3. Mr. Rommy Imah**- National Secretary
- 4. Mr. Obi Ikpe, Esq**- National Legal Adviser
- 5. Mr. Leo Ekeh**- Director, Media & Publicity
- 6. Onowu Richard Chuks Imah**- Director, Protocols
- 7. Ogbuehi Chichebe Obiaka**- Head, Political Unit
- 8. Chief Chima Alagor**- Director, Contacts & Mobilisation
- 9. Ogbuehi Ugochukwu Mba**- Director, Diaspora Affairs
- 10. Chief Fred Ojeh**- National Political Adviser



**CHIEF NWABUNNA ACHU**  
**(AKUBUILO)**  
*Congratulates*  
**HIS EXCELLENCY,**  
**DR. ALEX CHIOMA OTTI, OFR,**  
**Executive Governor of Abia State,**  
**on the Occasion of**  
**his Second Anniversary in Office**

**Your Excellency,**

**O**n behalf of my family and the good people of Umuobasi Autonomous Community in Mbala-Isoochi, Umunneochi Local Government Area, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to you on the occasion of your second anniversary as the Executive Governor of Abia State. We join the entire people of Abia State in celebrating this remarkable milestone, which reflects your steadfast commitment to good governance, transparency, and transformational leadership. I am particularly grateful, Your Excellency for the restoration of peace and security in Umunneochi LGA since you assumed office. Your decisive actions have brought a sense of safety and relief to our people, and for that, we are profoundly thankful,

Your giant strides in infrastructural development across the state cannot go unnoticed.

In particular, the ongoing construction of the Mbala-Umuaku-Ngodo Road and your promise to rebuild the damaged Mmam Bridge are testaments to your dedication to inclusive development and rural integration.

As you mark this significant anniversary, we pray that God will continue to strengthen you with wisdom, courage, and good health to deliver even more dividends of democracy to our dear state.

Once again, congratulations, Your Excellency.

*Signed:*

**Chief Nwabunna Achu**

(Akubuilu 1)

**Chairman/CEO,**  
**KEN NAB & SONS NIG. LTD**





# SPOTLIGHT ON MINISTRY OF LANDS AND HOUSING ABIA STATE

## (2023-2025)

### DIARY OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS THAT HAVE BEEN RENOVATED AND RETROFITTED WITH DATES

14/08/23	Facelift of Banquet Hall, Government House.	/06/24	Re-construction of collapsed fence, Stadium complex Umuahia.
1/08/23	Renovation of Abia Specialist Eye Clinic.	/06/24	Renovation of Chief Security Officer's Quarters Phase.
25/08/23	Gate Work at Okpara Auditorium.	/08/24	Re-modelling of DSS Director's lodge & Boys Quarters, Government House.
25/08/23	Additional payment for Facelift Works at Banquet Hall.	/08/24	Furnishing of renovated Ministry of Agric.
30/10/23	Abia State Orientation Agency.	/08/24	Furnishing of renovated Ministry of Budget & Planning.
06/11/23	Abia Newspapers.	/08/24	Furnishing of Renovated Nnamdi Azikiwe Secretariat.
06/11/23	Army Barracks, Ohaia.	/08/24	Remedial Work at Ministry of Budget & Planning Main building.
10/11/23	Ministry of Agric., Fishery Block.	08/24	Construction of perimeter fence, ministry of Agric
10/11/23	Ministry of Agric., Admin. Block.	/08/24	Rehabilitation & Renovation selected buildings NYSC Orientation Camp.
10/11/23	Ministry of Agric., St4 Warehouse.	/08/24	Replacement of Rug at DICC.
10/11/23	UN Habitat.	/08/24	Rehabilitation of old Secretariat.
10/11/23	Abia State Law Reform.	/10/24	Construction of Warehouse at Ministry of Agric.
10/11/23	Renovation of Block A & B New Secretariat.	/11/24	Maintenance of Block 'B' Secretariat.
14/11/23	Collapsed Fence New Government House.	11/24	Renovation of a-6 room block office Fed. COE Ofeme.
17/11/23	Structural Integrity Test on ASUBEB Building.	11/24	Additional furnishing Ministry of Budget & Planning.
01/12/23	Renovation of Ministry of Agric. ST3 Warehouse.		
07/12/23	Lokpanta Cattle Market Fencing.		
28/12/23	Structural Integrity Test of Nnamdi Azikiwe Secretariat.		
28/12/23	Remedial Work at Aguiyi Ironsi Conference Centre.		
03/01/24	Restoration of Governor's Lodge.		
04/02/24	Renovation of Aguiyi Ironsi Cenotaph.		
05/02/24	Rehabilitation of Quarter's Comptroller of Prisons.		
06/02/24	Renovation of Small Claims Court.		
07/02/24	Renovation of Small Claims Court.		
08/02/24	Renovation of Small Claims Court.		
11/03/24	Perimeter Fence Secretariat Old & New.		
12/03/24	Renovation of Chief Security Officer Quarters.		
15/03/24	Renovation & Retrofitting Old Secretariat.		
21/03/24	Renovation of DSS Quarters.		
22/03/24	Furnishing of Abia Law Reforms.		
26/03/24	Remodeling RUWASA Building.		
28/03/24	Renovation of Ministry of Agric. 3 No. Warehouses.		
30/03/24	Renovation of Ministry of Budget & Planning.		
02/04/24	Furnishing of Ministry of Budget & Planning.		
03/04/24	Renovation of Aba Zonal Office Half.		
06/05/24	Renovation of NSCDC Residence.		
27/05/24	Perimeter Fence & House, State Library.		
29/05/24	Perimeter Fencing of Ministry of Agric.		
04/06/24	Perimeter Fencing, Lokpanta.		
15/06/24	Staircase, Fence, & New Gate, School for the Blind.		

#### JANUARY 2025 - MAY 2025

1. Renovation & Retrofitting DSS Quarters
2. Renovation & Retrofitting Local Government Service Commission
3. Renovation NYSC Orientation Camp
4. Renovation of Technical College, Ofoeme
5. Construction Government House Clinic
6. Construction SSG's Office
7. Remodeling Michael Okpara Auditorium.
8. Perimeter fencing State Secretariat
9. Renovation State HOS Office complex.
10. Renovation of ASUBEB Building.
11. Construction 3rd C Block of State Secretariat on-going.
12. Construction Creche at State Secretariat on-going
13. Renovation of BCA.
14. Renovation of Government Press Printing Centre.
15. Abia Export Growth Laboratory with temporary.

# LANDS PROMPT AND TRANSPARENCY RE-CERTIFICATION OF LAND DOCUMENTS ON-GOING

- \* Full payment of compensation to land owners for dualisation of Aguiyi Ironsi Boullivion/Ossah Road Umuahia
- \* Acquisition and compensation of 1,936 Hectres of Lands for Abia Industrial Innovation Project (AIIP) Owaza, Ukwu West (December) 2024 - March, 2025).
- \* Successful Acquisition and Compensation for 1025 Ha of lands for Abia Internet Airport
- \* Training & capacity Development of Technical Staff
- \* Successful Re-Acquisition of 200 Ha of lands at Umuocheala, Isiala Ngwa North/South for Medical City
- \* Successful Acquisition of 100 Ha of lands at Emede, Umuire, Umuda, and Umuahia Ohuhu for FHA Estate;
- \* Successful Acquisition of 93 Ha of lands at Obinolu /Uhude/Leru communities for Federal Polytechnic, Umuochechi.
- \* Acquisition of 25 Ha of lands for Federal College of Education Ofeme - Ohuhu, Umuahia North.
- \* Successful Acquisition of 150 Hectares of lands at Umuimo in Osisioma Ngwa for Pharmaceutical cluster (not ready)
- \* **Ekeoha Market Extension, NAFDAC, SON.v Successful Automation of Governor' consent on C. of O.**
- \* Successful delegation to perfect other deed/titles by HaG.
- \* Successful re-purchase of Mbawsi layout allocations.

- \* Successful re-purchase of Bank of Industry land in Aba.
- \* Collaborative inspections and valuations of lands and buildings (On-going)
- \* On-going Enumeration and compensation for State to provide affordable housing at Valley View (Umuahia)
- \* **Mgbarakuma (Ubakala), Nbawsi Layout (Obingwa) and Ikpokwu Obehie (Ukwu West L.G.A.).**
- \* On-going acquisition of land for Entertainment Village at Nigha, Isiala Ngwa North L.GA
- \* 30-Day Turn-around Time for Processing of C of O.
- \* Processed 2520 No. of C of Os out of which 1895 were signed by the Executive Governor, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR and successfully selected by the owners.

## SURVEY:

1. Successfully carried out 48 No. different surveys of Government Acquired lands across the State.
2. Acquired 1 No. Drone for Digital Mapping.
3. Acquired 5 No. Modern/Sophisticated Multi-Million Naira Survey instruments.
4. Acquired 2 units of Innoson SUV (Jeeps) for field Activities

## TOWN PLANNING:

- \* Digitalization of Town Planning Studio.

## RENOVATION WORKS AT NNAMDI AZIKIWE SECRETARIAT



BEFORE RENOVATION



AFTER RENOVATION

Renovated by MINISTRY OF LANDS AND HOUSING, ABIA STATE 2024



**RENOVATION WORKS AT BANQUET HALL,  
GOVERNMENT HALL**



**RENOVATION WORKS AT  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, OFFEME**



**RENOVATION WORKS AT  
FISHERY BUILDING**



**RENOVATION WORKS AT ABIA STATE  
LAW REFORM AND REVIEW COMMISSION**





### RENOVATION WORKS AT AGUIYI IRONSI CONFERENCE CENTRE



### RENOVATION WORKS AT ABIA NEWSPAPER & PUBLISHING OFFICE BLOCK



### RENOVATION WORKS AT RUWASA



### RENOVATION WORKS AT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK





**RENOVATION WORKS AT  
ST4 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**



**RENOVATION WORKS AT CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER  
QUARTERS GOVERNMENT HOUSE**



**RENOVATION WORKS AT  
SCHOOL OF THE BLIND**



**RENOVATION WORKS AT  
PLANNING COMMISSION**







# GOVERNMENT OF ABIA STATE OF NIGERIA

## ABIA STATE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

No. 2 Adelabu Street, Umuahia



AB/PHCDA/PRS/LCF/1/33

### INVITATION FOR TENDER

June 4, 2025

The Abia State Primary Health Care Development Agency, Umuahia hereby invites bids for tender from competent, reputable and interested Contractors/Supplier and Printers for the following jobs:

- Renovation of BASIC PHC in Umumomainta ward of Isiala Ngwa North LGA, OHANKU PHC of Ukwa East LGA,
- Supply of Laptops
- Printing of Health Facility Data Tools.

#### SCOPE OF WORK

**RENOVATION OF FACILITIES:** The contractor is expected to renovate the main buildings, Staff Quarters, Perimeter Fencing, Install Solar Powered Borehole and Solarization of the entire Facilities.

**SUPPLY OF LAPTOP:** The supplier is expected to supply 9 Pieces of HP Laptops.

**PRINTING OF DATA TOOLS:** The printer is expected to print HMIS GMP/Nutrition Register, ANC, OPD, General Attendance, PNC, Family Planning and Facility Monthly Summary forms.

#### TENDER/PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

Prospective tenders are required to submit their pre-qualification bid containing the under-listed documents in clearly marked envelope to the Office of the Executive Secretary within two weeks from this publication.

The opening of the bids fellow immediately after close of submission of the following documents:

- Evidence of payment of non-refundable appropriate tender fee.
- Certificate of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).
- Company profile including personnel and Equipment
- A bid security in an amount not more than 2%of the bid price by

way of a bank guarantee issued by a reputable commercial bank for the renovation of the facilities.

(e) Details of verifiable experience on similar projects

(f) Current Tax Clearance Certificate.

(g) Current Finance status of the company.

(h) Fully priced Bill of Quantities.

(i) Certificate of Registration with Abia State Government (Due Process and Public Procurement Bureau) for facility renovation.

(j) Technical Design

(k) Certified true copies of Memorandum and Articles of Associated of the Company.

#### TENDER PROCEDURE

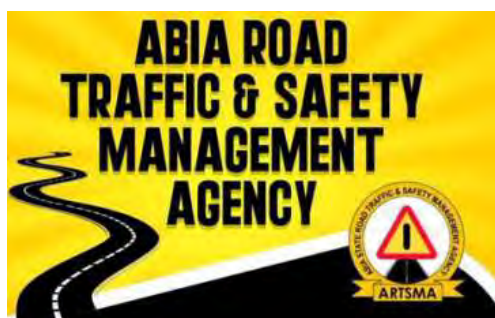
Completed tenders should be sealed in an envelope and clearly marked to indicate the project being tendered for to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Agency before 12noon on the day of close of tender.

Please, note only those contractors that are pre-qualified and found suitable for the work will have their tenders considered for the award of contract for the project.

Closing date for the submission of the tender is 2 weeks from the date of this publication and the opening of the tenders follows immediately thereafter in the conference Room of ABIA STATE PRIMARY HEALTH

CARE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.

**DR. KALU U. KALU**  
Executive Secretary



## ADVERTISEMENT FOR TENDER

### ABIA STATE ROAD TRAFFIC AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

#### SUBJECT:

- Construction Standard Reflective Traffic Signs
- Supply Of Heavy Duty Towing Truck
- Setup and Equipment of a standard control room including the procurement of; Smart cameras, computers with multiple screen display & Internet setup e.t.c

Abia state road traffic and safety management agency invites sealed tenders from eligible and qualified suppliers/ contractors the provision of the following services/ supplies

#### TENDER DESCRIPTION

- Construction of standard reflective traffic signs
- Supply of heavy duty towing truck
- Supply and setup of control room

#### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

- Certificate of registration with CAV, CAC2, CAC7 AND CAC10A
- Memorandum/ article of association
- Evidence of tax clearance, VAT Registration
- Evidence of ITF compliance
- Evidence of registration with due process and public procurement Bureau
- Sworn affidavit

- Company profile
- List of completed and ongoing similar project
- Tax clearance certificate
- TIN
- Evidence of previous work done (e.g signed contract)
- One file jacket

#### SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

Completed tender documents must be enclosed in plain sealed envelopes, clearly marked with tender reference number and description and submitted at Abia State Road Traffic & Safety management Agency (ARTSMA) Headquarters office at No. 9 factory road, Umuahia.

Tender will be opened immediately after the closing time in the presence of bidders.

ARTSMA reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in whole or in part and is not bound to give reason for its decision.

For Further inquiries please contact: **07061290099**

**Onumadu Obioma M.**  
(Director of Finance)

For: The General Manager, ARTSMA



# ABSCOHMAT MATRICULATES 2000 STUDENTS, *Set for Relocation.* *Nwokoma Don and Onyinyechi Ibem*



The Abia State College of Health Sciences and Management Technology (ABSCOHMAT), Aba, marked a major milestone as it matriculated over 2,000 new students across its various academic departments—reportedly the largest intake in its 70-year history. This significant increase signals growing confidence in the institution's leadership under Rector Mr. Alloy E. Okezie, and the supportive policies of Governor Dr. Alex Chioma Otti.

In his welcome address, the Rector described ABSCOHMAT as a unique institution committed to producing middle- and high-level manpower for Nigeria's industries. He emphasized the College's dedication to academic excellence and practical skill acquisition.

The institution currently comprises four majors schools: School of Health Sciences, School of Biomedical Engineering Technology, School of Pure and Applied Sciences, School of Business Management.

Mr. Okezie lauded Governor Otti for his unwavering support, attributing recent successes—including accreditations in SIWES, Public Health, Pharmacy, and Health Information Management—to the Governor's vision.



The Rector noted that modern equipment has been installed across various laboratories, enabling the College to conduct advanced tests such as lipid profile, liver and kidney function tests, enzymology, tumor markers, and andrology.

However, he highlighted key challenges: lack of lecture theaters, functional auditoriums, staff vehicles, hostels, cafeterias, security vehicles, and ambulances. He called on the state government to address these issues to elevate the College to global standards. Addressing the new students, Mr. Okezie urged them to embrace their opportunity wholeheartedly, make their parents proud, and dedicate themselves to academic excellence. "Good grades," he stated, "are products of hard work."

Delivering goodwill messages, Hon. Jones Ike, General Manager of Abia Newspapers, praised the current administration for restoring stability and eliminating issues such as cultism, waste mismanagement, and staff salary arrears. He noted that the record intake reflects the success of Governor Otti's reforms.



## ABSCOHMAT Matriculates 2000 Students, *Set for Relocation.* Continued

Comrade Michael Chinedu, Special Assistant to the Governor on Student Matters, also commended the transformation and urged students to stay focused, shun distractions, and aim to serve both God and humanity.

The event featured the formal oath-taking ceremony, academic processions, and student testimonials. Students like Nwokoma Favor (Community Health Technology), Bob-Umaeme Daniel, and Jacob Sharon Ihuoma (Medical Laboratory Technician) expressed gratitude and pledged to remain focused throughout their academic journey.

Delivering the keynote address on behalf of the Governor, the Abia State Commissioner for Health, Prof. Enoch Ogbonnaya Uche, announced that arrangements had been finalized to relocate the College to its permanent site. in other to have a more conducive environment for learning and research

He stressed that it was captured in the 2025 fiscal budget of the State with a realistic amount of money mapped out to ensure its realization within the shortest time possible.

Prof. Enoch Ogbonnaya Uche noted that the school has existed for over 70 years and have produced millions of human resources that are all over the world. He stated that the government pays great attention to the College because of the vintage position it occupies in the production of skilled health workers whose demands in and across the State cannot be over emphasized. He also asserted that about 80 -- 90 percent of health challenges are met at the primary health facilities and it is the College that produces the much needed trained and skilled manpower.

Prof Uche eulogized the Rector of the Institution, Mr Alloy. E. Okezie and his Management Team for the great turn around in the College remarking that the team met the school at its lowest ebb in development but has changed the narrative for good.

He also appreciated the matriculated students and their parents for starting a great journey; a journey to excellence and greatness. He tasked the students

to be intentional in pursuance of their studies, make judicious use of every opportunity and facility available and set achievable goals for themselves. He employed them to shun vices that will puncture their stay in the College and inhibit them from achieving the expected results.

The Deputy Rector Dr Adimuko P.O gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the College. The highlight of the event was the inspection of various facilities and new laboratory equipment installed by Prof Enoch Uche who was conducted round the College by the Rector Alloy E Okezie and other top management team of the College. The tour saw the commissioner visit places like the retrofitted Pharmacy Laboratory, the newly constructed SIWES building, the Public Health laboratory, the demonstration Laboratory all of which were in various stages of dilapidation before the inception of this administration. The commissioner was able to interact with both the lecturers and students at various point of call. At the SIWES building the Commissioner met with the Director Dr Ifegwu Njoku Oji who expressed happiness that the new office will provide them with the opportunity to interface with relevant agencies for the betterment of the school and students but lamented that the office needs funding, furnishings and computers. Hon Enoch Ogbonnaya made an instant promise to offset those needs for they are sacrosanct for effective functioning of the Department. This move, already budgeted for in the 2025 fiscal year, aims to provide a more conducive environment for learning and research.

Prof. Uche underscored the College's pivotal role in producing healthcare workers for the state and beyond. He stressed that 80–90% of health challenges are handled at primary health care centers—facilities largely staffed by ABSCOHMAT graduates.





**ABSCOHMAT Matriculates 2000 Students, *Set for Relocation.* Continued**

**H**e commended Rector Okezie and his team for revitalizing the College from a period of stagnation and urged students to make the most of their educational opportunities while avoiding vices that could derail their progress.

Deputy Rector Dr. P.O. Adimuko delivered the vote of thanks.

The day concluded with a tour of upgraded facilities, led by the Rector and Prof. Uche. Visits included the retrofitted Pharmacy Laboratory, the newly built SIWES building, and modernized Public Health and Demonstration Laboratories. During the tour, department heads highlighted ongoing challenges such as funding, equipment, and space needs. Prof. Uche pledged immediate support for the SIWES department and emphasized the importance of careful use of resources, particularly manikins used for clinical training.

In response, staff members including Dr. Ifegwu Njoku Oji and Mrs. Anyaelechi Nnenna Elizabeth expressed commitment to upholding standards and continuing to improve teaching and practical outcomes.





**ABSCOHMAT Matriculates 2000 Students, *Set for Relocation.* Continued**





**ABSCOHMAT Matriculates 2000 Students, *Set for Relocation.* Continued**







## ABIA STATE OIL PRODUCING AREAS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ASOPADEC



### CELEBRATING TWO YEARS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE IN ABIA UNDER GOV. OTTI



I, Venerable Dr. Joshua Ogadinma Onyeike, the General Manager, Abia State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (ASOPADEC) On behalf of my family, staff and the good people of the oil and gas communities joyfully felicitate with the State Governor, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR as he marks two years of impactful good governance in Abia State.

Your Excellency, Sir we are happy to identify with your doggedness and unwavering courage and commitment that have yielded results of massive landmark achievements in two years in office. You have shown capacity and capability to serve and chat a new cause for Ndi Abia.

The change mantra is a reality and the new Abia is here. Your superlative developmental activities have touched all the sectors of the economy and Abia is working to the admiration of all and to the glory of God.

We have no doubt that more packages of dividends of democracy are on the way. Please keep up the good work.

At ASOPADEC We are working assiduously on our mandate to complement your towering transformation agenda. Our intervention activities span across reconstruction of roads, renovation of market stalls, construction of civic centers, school blocks; provision of water-boreholes, agricultural inputs, scholarships, environmental cleanliness, health care services and social welfare. We are inspired by your dynamic and impactful leadership traits and will not relent to do more.

Your Excellency, Abians, especially, the oil and gas producing communities are happy with your strives in governance.

Congratulations sir. Ride on!  
We are solidly behind you.

  
**Venerable Dr. Joshua Ogadinma Onyeike**  
FCAI, FICMC, FIOGRS  
General Manager.





# EKPONIBORO 2025: A REMARKABLE OUTING

By Jones Nnanna Ike



**H**istorically, the Old Bende Igbo stock has been known for its martial prowess. Renowned as warrior communities, their material culture still echoes a legacy of valour and conflict. However, beyond the battlefield, these people were also skilled farmers and pioneering maritime traders. Their commercial enterprise, though less documented, left enduring legacies still visible

today—through architecture, attire, cuisine, and cultural practices, notably the Ekponiboro Festival.

To fully grasp the significance of this festival, a historical detour is essential. Long ago, intrepid merchants from Old Bende clans—Abiriba, Abam, Item, Alayi, Igbera, Ozu Item, Nkporo, and Ohafia—embarked on groundbreaking

trade expeditions. Navigating the Igwu River through Enyiong and Itu (in present-day Akwa Ibom State), they pushed forward into Calabar, Equatorial Guinea, and Cameroon.

These bold ventures birthed a new entrepreneurial class whose legacy defines the enduring spirit of Old Bende enterprise.



P I C T O R I A L S

## | EKPONIBORO 2025: A REMARKABLE OUTING



**S**ea-faring, however, was perilous. Only the most daring and innovative took up the challenge, venturing out during the dry season. Trade concluded with the onset of rains, typically in April. To celebrate the trials and triumphs of their voyages, the Ekponiboro Festival was born—a masquerade symbolizing hard work, courage, and success. It reaffirmed the belief that "dirty hands at work make for oily mouths."

Being affluent, the merchants used the festival to showcase their wealth—new homes, fine clothes, bicycles, electronics, and imported drinks. Celebrations culminated in lavish home parties with food and drink in abundance.

The festival declined following the Nigerian-Biafran War but was revived through the efforts of Chief James Chijioke Ume (Ike Abam). With his continued commitment, Ekponiboro has not only returned but flourished. The 2025 edition, held on April 19th at Atan Abam village field, rekindled deep nostalgia—a proud reminder of a golden age forged through grit and enterprise.

This year's edition saw an overwhelming turnout and renewed enthusiasm, signaling a robust cultural resurgence. As in previous years, Chief James Chijioke Ume (Ike Abam) spearheaded and solely sponsored the event. Notably, the 2025 festival introduced new partnerships, including the Abia State Government through the Ministry of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy, Golden Guinea Breweries Plc, and MTN Nigeria Plc. Their support brought fresh energy and prestige to the celebration.

Elevated to a "State Festival," Ekponiboro is now listed in Abia State's official cultural calendar—and appears poised to gain national recognition.

The 2025 edition introduced further innovations. Various villages in Abam and neighbouring communities like Arochukwu participated, showcasing their unique cultural strengths. Each was easily distinguished by their uniforms—George wrappers paired with white tops—and many incorporated the iconic lion head motif (*Isi Odum*) in creative ways.

Festivities began early as participants re-enacted the historic river journeys by paddling boats on the Igwu River. Though symbolic, the demonstration—led by Ike Abam with his designer paddle—offered a dynamic nod to ancestral trade routes.

Back at the village square, the venue was elegantly arranged with grand canopies, color-coded seating, and elaborate decorations. Each participating village was assigned a tagged section, adding to the spectacle's organization.

Idima Abam stood out with their rarely-seen *Atu Mpi* masquerade—armed with a sharp cutlass and restrained with ropes, it struck both awe and reverence among spectators. Known in Igbo culture as a "*Nukwu Mmanwu*" (great masquerade), its controlled fury and symbolic power captivated the crowd.

A major highlight was the attendance of Abia State Governor, His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, whose entrance electrified the crowd. Distinguished guests had already taken their seats, including: Dr. Orji Ogbonnaya Orji (Chairman of the occasion, CEO of NEITI, Hon. Ibe Okwara Osonwa and Hon. Ginger Onwusibe (Federal House of Representatives)



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Dr. Chima Anyaso, Mr. Femi Soley (NNPC Director of Corporate Affairs), Senator Orji Uzor Kalu (represented by Dr. Jemima Ola Kalu), State officials: Speaker Rt. Hon. Emmanuel Emeruwa, Deputy Speaker Rt. Hon. Austin Nmerigini, Majority Leader Hon. Uchenna Okoro, Commissioner: Dr. Matthew Ekwuribe (Arts, Culture and Creative Economy), Mayors: Engr. Dr. Chibuike Eze Aru (Arochuku) and Smart Ihuoma (Umuahia North), Former Speaker, Hon. Agwu U. Agwu and Rector of Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic, Dr. Chris Kalu Okoro.

In his address, Governor Otti praised the Abam people for preserving their cultural identity:

"This speaks to our roots. A society that loses its culture loses its soul. History shows us that such societies often fall into decline or subjugation. I'm proud that the people of Abam have not forgotten where they come from. I commend Chief James Chijioke and the Unubiko Foundation for sustaining this legacy."

Senator Orji Uzor Kalu, through his representative, encouraged other communities to follow Abam's example in cultural preservation.

"Culture is identity. A society without culture is a lost one. I salute the efforts of Ike Abam and the entire community for keeping these traditions alive."

Chief James Chijioke (Ike Abam), the chief host and sponsor, emphasized the historical significance of Ekponiboro.

"This festival stems from a proud heritage of trade and resilience. Though interrupted by war, the Unubiko Foundation has revived it to reaffirm our cultural roots. Ekponiboro represents the strength, triumphs, and legacy of our forebears."





## P I C T O R I A L S **EKPONIBORO 2025: A REMARKABLE OUTING**

The occasion also featured awards to surviving and late sea merchants, in tribute to their enduring contributions. Cultural performances were vibrant and diverse. Highlights included: Ndi Okereke Abam with their *Akan* and *Ilu* displays, Idima Abam's fearsome *Atu Mpi*, Ndi Okorie Abam's regal *Akpan* group, Ndi Ebe's *Ukwayiri* troupe, Amuru Abam's warrior-inspired *Ikpo* dance, Participation by Ndi Oji Abam, Ndi Agwu, and Aro Ndi Ite, Enthralling performances by the Abia Council of Arts and Culture and Ugwu Aro Cultural Troupe from Arochukwu.

The festival climaxed with the dramatic entrance of the *Ekponiboro* masquerade, which engaged in a symbolic stage battle with Ike Abam—illustrating the enduring struggle and ultimate triumph of the merchant class. Golden Guinea Breweries energized the crowd with a wide range of drinks, while MTN Nigeria delighted attendees with branded souvenirs and giveaways. In every sense, Ekponiboro 2025 lived up to expectations—a resounding celebration of culture, courage, and community.



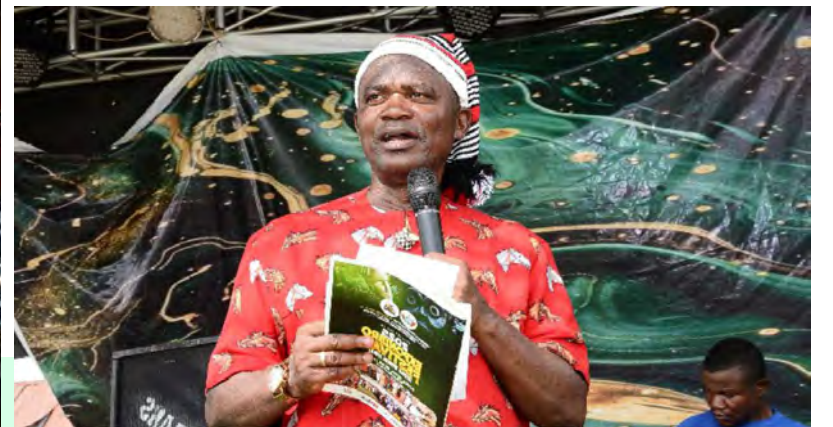


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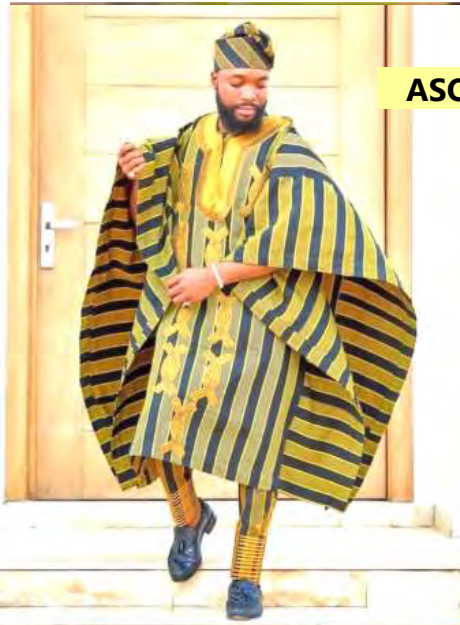




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**ASO-OKE**



**A**frica is one of the continents in the world rich in diverse cultures and beautiful traditional clothes.

The diversity of traditional attires in Africa is vast, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of the continent.

These attires vary by region and ethnicity, often reflecting specific cultural practices and social status.

Here's a more detailed look at some examples:

## 1 ASO-OKE (Nigeria):

This is commonly worn by the Yoruba in the Western part of Nigeria. It's more than an attire, it is one of the instruments used to experience the tangible aspect of Yoruba tradition.

## *Some African Countries And Their Traditional Attire*

Compiled By Sandra Chibuikwe

**2 BOUBOU I (Senegal):**  
This is a traditional, fashionable and beautiful Senegalese garment that is worn by both males and females across Africa. There is the massive BOUBOU and the normal size depending on the height and size of the person wearing it. A woman's neck shape is round and broad, while the men's neck is V-shaped





## XHOSA TRADITIONAL DRESSES

**3 (South Africa):** The Xhosa outfit is a site to behold. They are frequently seen at special events such as weddings and cultural ceremonies.

The Xhosa outfits are gaining popularity in international fashion shows. Each Xhosa gown has its own story to tell. No two traditional Xhosa clothes are alike. Each design is inspired by a different event or experience and represents the woman who wears it.



**4 KAFTAN (North Africa):** These outfits are typically made with cotton brocade, silk, lace or synthetic fabrics. They can be worn with or without a sash.

It is a long light-weight dress made in different beautiful colors., with long sleeves, that can be worn as an overdress with trousers or alone as a long flowing dress.

The usage and titles of Kaftan vary from culture to culture, like the Moroccan Kaftan, Algerian Kaftan, Bohemian Kaftan, West African Kaftan etc.

The male Kaftan is known as the Kaftan of honor in Algeria, in West Africa the male Kaftan is known as Senegalese Kaftan.

## 5 TOGHU / ATOGHU (North West Cameroon)

In the past only men and women of royalty wore Toghu as a symbol of customary superiority over commoners. It is an attire commonly worn for investitures, coronations and other formal occasions.

Toghu is a multi-colored embroidered garment, made of velvet fabric, that is soft and comfortable to wear.





## 6 MUSHANANA (Uganda):

This is a traditional ceremonial dress worn by the women in Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda. It consists of a skirt bound on the hip and a sash draped on one shoulder, it's typically worn with a tank-top.



## 7 DJELLABA - (Mangreb Region, North Africa):

This is a long loose-fitting unisex robe. Traditionally, wool was the primary material used to make Djellaba, but in recent times, cotton Djellaba is popularly worn.

Djellaba often sweeps the ground, but recently, new varieties can be made to be leaner and shorter.

## 8 HABESHA KEMIS (Ethiopia):

this is a long white flowing garment for females, made with cotton and embellished with embroidery and a shawl known as Netela. It comes in gray, beige or white.

For the males, they wear white trousers, a white knee length shirt and a piece of cloth known as gaby.







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