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# NATIONAL Ambassador

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## ANPC Task Journalists on Professional Growth, Hails Gov Otti's Media Reforms

By Okere Ugochinyere  
& Ekehuisi Precious

The Abia Newspapers and Publishing Corporation (ANPC) has called on journalists to upscale their work by embracing ethical standards, fact-checking, and modern reporting tools to remain credible in today's fast-changing media landscape.

Speaking at the opening of a two-day capacity building workshop for journalists in Umuahia on Wednesday, the General Manager of ANPC, Hon. Jones Nnanna Ike, stressed the need for continuous training to combat fake news, digital disruption, and declining public trust in the media.

He lauded Governor Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, for his visionary reforms in reviving state-owned media, noting that the National Ambassador Newspapers is being repositioned to compete favourably with other national tabloids.

"At ANPC, we are determined to align with the Governor's transformative vision by building a professional newsroom where accuracy, balance, fairness, and responsibility remain our guiding principles," Ike assured.

The workshop, designed to equip journalists with practical skills in ethical journalism, investigative reporting, feature writing, fact-checking, and digital storytelling.

Meanwhile, the Editor of National Ambassador Newspapers, Deacon Chukwuemeka Egejuru, stressed the need for ethical and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in modern journalism.

Delivering a lecture entitled "The Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Modern Journalism", Egejuru noted that while AI offers opportunities for speed, efficiency, and innovation in news production, it also poses risks if misapplied.

He cautioned that overreliance on AI tools without human oversight could lead to misinformation, plagiarism, and erosion of public

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■ Governor Alex Otti (Right) receives a plaque from former Senate President, Senator Ken Nnamani (Left), during a recent visit to the Governor in Abia State.

## Abia At 34: Otti Declares New Era Of Growth, Security

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

**G**overnor Alex Otti, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to building a prosperous, safe and inclusive Abia State, declaring that "the set time is now" for Ndi Abia to rise to the demands of true greatness.

Delivering a statewide address to mark the 34th anniversary of the creation of Abia State, Governor Otti praised the resilience, creativity and industrious spirit of Abians at home and abroad, while outlining the progress his government has made in the past 27 months and the vision for the future.

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Governor Otti reminded Ndi Abia of the unique heritage of their State, founded in 1991 and dedicated wholly to God by its fathers. He stressed that Abia's identity as "God's Own State" is not a mere slogan, but a covenant that has continued to preserve the land through turbulent times.

"Abia is a creation of God, and the events of the last few years have further justified the wisdom of our fathers who wholly dedicated this State to the one Sovereign God from the very beginning," Otti said.

The Governor described Abia as a land blessed not only with rich natural

resources but also with an extraordinary pool of human talent scattered across the world, many of whom continue to distinguish themselves in diverse fields.

Reviewing his administration's record since assuming office, Otti highlighted key interventions in

infrastructure, security, workers' welfare, education and public health.

He noted that under his leadership, the era of delayed or uncertain payment of workers' salaries and retirees' pensions has ended, stressing that "routine entitlements are now guaranteed."

Continued on P.2

## Okoko Chukwu Welcomed To Labour Party

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

**A**lex Otti of Abia State has formally received the former Deputy Governor of the state, Rt Hon, UdeOkoko Chukwu, into the Labour Party, describing his defection as a "bold and weighty political move".

Okoko Chukwu, who recently resigned his membership of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), few weeks ago, joined the Labour Party, alongside many PDP faithfuls and his political structure, the Abia Vision Rangers.

Speaking at a grand

reception in his hometown, Nkporo, Ohafia LGA, which attracted a crowd of party leaders and supporters, Governor Otti assured the former Deputy Governor of fair treatment and equal opportunities within the Labour Party.

"This is a party that does not discriminate, there is no difference between him that is joining today and some of us that joined earlier. As soon as you are a member of the party, you have equal rights and opportunities", Governor Otti said.

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**EDITORIAL:**

**Abia At 34: A Time To Reflect And Rejoice**

## News

### Abia At 34: Otti Declares New Era Of Growth, Security

Continued from P.1

On infrastructure, he declared that Abia is witnessing "road construction on a scale no one had ever seen before," with new projects not only opening up communities but also driving economic activities in trade, real estate, transportation and agriculture.

Waste management, long a sore point in urban centres like Aba and Umuahia, has also been streamlined, with the Governor boasting that, "our urban centres now rank as some of the cleanest in the region."

On security, Otti was emphatic that Abia would never be a haven for criminals:

"No inch of Abia territory shall be safe for those who traffic in violence and the tools of destruction. It is either you change your ways or you pack your bags and leave."

A central theme of the Governor's speech was youth empowerment. He pledged to remodel Abia's education system to make it responsive to the demands of the 21st Century economy, with a focus on practical skills, technology, and human capacity development.

"Our goal is beyond certificates." "We want to raise a new generation that can stand tall anywhere in the world, not because of paper qualifications but because of what they can do, create and innovate," he further stated.

While celebrating the resilience and progress of Abians, Otti urged citizens not to rest on their laurels but to recommit themselves to the values of hard work, excellence and good neighbourliness.

He called on every citizen to play their part through responsible citizenship, especially by paying taxes, supporting government initiatives, and contributing to community development.

"The torch has been passed onto us and the light must shine even brighter. It is squarely in our hands to create the future we want our children to live in, and we have no reason to fail them," he declared.

As Abia turns 34, Otti expressed optimism that the State was on the right trajectory, insisting that while there is still much to be done, his administration is building a sustainable foundation for future growth.

"We may not hit the bull's eye on every metric, but there is no disputing the evidence that we have set Abia on a new trajectory—one that prioritises public gains over parochial interests," the Governor said.

### Okochukwu Welcomed To Labour Party

Continued from P.1

The governor described the former deputy governor as a long-standing friend who consistently demonstrated fairness and respect, even when they were in opposing political camps.

He said, "Rt Honourable Ude Okochukwu has been my friend and my brother even when we were in different camps. He is one official of government that will give you your dues and your respect, even as deputy governor."

"In those days, there's no way he would see me and would not recognise me. And I remember he would always introduce me as his friend and his elder brother", Governor Otti further stated.

The governor revealed that Okochukwu had privately pledged his support during the 2023 elections despite remaining in the PDP at the time.

While reiterating his administration's commitment to quality infrastructure, Governor Otti, used the occasion to announce that the Itu-Nkporo Road had been awarded for reconstruction, stressing that Abians are entitled to good roads.

The Governor expressed gratitude to the people of the area for their support, which he said enabled the Labour Party to secure a resounding victory in the 2023 general elections.

In his remarks earlier, the former Deputy Governor said his decision to abandon the PDP was informed by Governor Otti's transformational leadership in the State and commended the Governor for his unprecedented reforms and people-focused development initiatives in less than two years in office.

Rt Hon Sir Okochukwu who recalled the challenges he faced accessing Umuahia-Uzuakoli-Akara-Ohafia road during his tenure as Deputy Governor of the State, lauded the Governor for prioritizing instructor and addressing the long-neglected project.

He assured that his supporters would align fully with the Labour Party under Governor Otti's leadership.

## Chukwu Hails Gov Otti's Transformational Leadership, Felicitates With Abians

By Daniel Ogidio

As Abia State marks its 34th anniversary to August 27, 2025, the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Due Process, Dr. Oluebube A. Chukwu, has extended warm felicitations to the government and people of the state, describing the milestone as both historic and inspiring.

In a goodwill message he personally signed and made available to newsmen, Dr. Chukwu noted that the anniversary offers Abians the opportunity to reflect on their shared history, values, and collective aspirations for a greater tomorrow.

He lauded the resilience, courage, and enterprising spirit of Abians, which he said remain the true driving force behind the state's



Dr. Oluebube A. Chukwu

progress.

"Abia State continues to grow in strength and prominence under the visionary, pragmatic, and

people-oriented leadership of His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR. This anniversary does not only remind us of our founding

but also of the remarkable transformation taking place under this administration, anchored on transparency, due process, accountability, and sustainable development," he said.

Dr. Chukwu urged Abians to see the anniversary as a call to rededicate themselves to the vision of building a new Abia founded on equity, justice, innovation, enterprise, and inclusive growth.

According to him, the foundations being laid by the present administration would ensure that Abia remains a beacon of hope, excellence, and opportunity within Nigeria.

He further reaffirmed his personal commitment, alongside that of his family, to the collective dream of a prosperous Abia that lives up to its cherished name as God's Own State.

"On behalf of my family and Due Process and Public Procurement Bureau Office, I congratulate the government and good people of Abia State on this historic anniversary. May the years ahead bring greater prosperity, peace, and fulfillment of purpose as we collectively actualize the full potential of our dear state," Dr. Chukwu added.

### Abia Govt Gains Approval For Takeover Of Star Paper Mill

By Amarachi Uzonkoku

He lamented that lecturers have remained on the same salary scale for over 15 years despite continuous service to the nation.

"Our professors are not earning more than ₦500,000 monthly. Imagine professors who have trained graduates and contributed immensely to nation-building still being owed three and a half years of salary arrears. This is unacceptable," Ugwuene said.

He further criticized the government's Tertiary Institution Staff Support Fund (TISSF) loan scheme, describing it as "another distraction" and insisting that what lecturers need is a living wage and proper funding of universities, not loans that will burden already struggling academics.

Other senior academics, including Professors Charles Chukwuma Ononuju, Uzo Chukwu Onyebinama, Chukwuma Ofor, Chinyere Echendu, Mabel Ifeoma Onwuka and Rev. Sister Dr. Celestina Adaku Ogazie, expressed frustration at what they called the Federal Government's insensitivity.

They noted that a situation where a professor takes home less than ₦500,000 monthly while struggling to pay rent, children's school fees, and other family expenses was both humiliating and demoralizing.

They emphasized that lecturers have continued to graduate students and produce professionals across fields despite being owed arrears and denied fair remuneration. "We have made wonders through the graduates we have produced, yet we have been cast aside from the rewards of those wonders," Prof. Onyebinama said.

On their part, Echendu and Ogazie lamented the endless cycle of fruitless negotiations with government and appealed

to President Bola Tinubu's administration to "do the right thing" by honouring agreements and prioritizing education.

Meanwhile, some concerned students of the university who wouldn't want their names on print pleaded with the Federal Government to urgently resolve the dispute,

noting that another nationwide ASUU strike could cripple the academic calendar and jeopardize their future.

ASUU has maintained that the protest was a final warning, stressing that unless the government takes concrete action, the union will have no choice but to embark on a full-blown nationwide strike.

### ANPC Task Journalists On Professional Growth

Continued from P.1

trust. According to him, journalists must apply professional judgment, fact-checking, and editorial responsibility when using AI-driven platforms.

Egejuru further urged participants to embrace AI as a supportive tool rather than a substitute for journalistic integrity, creativity, and accountability. He emphasized that the credibility of the newsroom depends on how well journalists balance technology with ethical practice.

Also speaking, ICT expert Mr. Michael Iheadindu handled a session on "Harnessing Emerging Digital Tools for Modern Newsrooms", focusing on equipping journalists with the skills to thrive in today's digital media environment.

He introduced participants to the concept of the digital newsroom with emphasis on real-time publishing, multimedia storytelling, news editing using AI tools like ChatGPT, and story publishing on CMS platforms. He also highlighted the importance of cybersecurity, teaching reporters how to safeguard their devices and data through measures such as two-factor authentication and other protective practices.

In his remark, veteran journalist Mr. Chikezie

Emelike underscored the centrality of ethics and professionalism in journalism. Delivering a lecture on "Ethical Journalism and Basic Principles of News Reporting and Feature Writing", Emelike urged journalists to exhibit a high level of ethical standards in the discharge of their duties.

He maintained that truth, fairness, balance, and accuracy remain the cornerstones of responsible journalism, warning that any compromise could undermine public trust in the media. According to him, journalists must resist the temptation of sensationalism and ensure that their reports serve the public interest rather than personal or political gains.

Contributing to the training, another veteran journalist, Elder Kalu K. Eziyi, emphasized the relevance of investigative reporting, feature writing, and adherence to media laws in strengthening the practice of journalism.

Speaking on the topic "Investigative Journalism, Feature Writing Techniques and Basic Media Laws", Eziyi described investigative journalism as a powerful tool for exposing wrongdoing, promoting accountability, and safeguarding the public interest.

#### Change of Name

I, formerly known and addressed as Ulu, Johnson Arunsi, now wish to be known and addressed as UDONSI, JOHNSON MICHAEL. All documents bearing my former names remain valid. The general public should please take note.

UDONSI, JOHNSON MICHAEL.

#### Change of Name

I, formerly known and addressed as Onyeagwa AnnMary Chidinma, now wish to be known and addressed as ANNMARY CHIDINMA ONWUCHEKWA. All documents bearing my former names remain valid. The general public should please take note.

ANNMARY CHIDINMA ONWUCHEKWA.

#### Change of Name

I, formerly known and addressed as Uluocha Mary Ugonna, now wish to be known and addressed as UZUKWU MARYUGONNA. All documents bearing my former names remain valid. The general public should please take note.

UZUKWU MARY UGONNA.



## News

### CBN Unveils Bank Customers' Bill of Right

By Kelechi EmeOgidi

**T**he Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), has made available in a pamphlet, the rights and duties of a bank customer. The document which was recently unveiled and made available on the CBN's website aims to acquit and sensitise bank customers with certain rights and duties guaranteed by laws, regulation and convention.

The document which identified the customer as the most important person in the economy noted that every business succeed only when the customer is happy. It further described the customer as a king and that as a king, the customer has many rights as well as duties which he owes himself and the society.

The rights of a bank customer as stated in the document 'Bank Customers Bills of Rights', includes: the Right to be informed, the Right to chose, the Right to safety, the Right to redress, the Right to privacy and confidentiality, the Right to good service, the Right to equality and the Right to free monthly statement of account.

A further breakdown of some of the rights showed that a bank customer has a right of disclosure of information from banks on products and services that banks offer. 'Your banks must explain to your understanding all contractual terms and changes prior to the consummation of any agreement or contract. It amounts to a breach of right if your bank fails to provide this information or deliberately misleads you in any way', the document revealed.

Bank customers also have rights to select from a range of product and services made available by the bank at competitive prices. Banks are expected to provide customers with a redress mechanism to express their displeasure or grievance.

The mechanism must be free, accessible, transparent, timely and convenient. You have a right to efficient complaints management system through which you can lodge complaints against your bank. You also have right to be kept abreast of resolution process.

Under the Right of equality, a bank customer is expected to be treated equally as other customers regardless of differences in financial standing/deposit balance, physical ability, age, gender, ethnicity or creed. It is wrong for a bank to offer preferential treatment to some customers at the expense of other similar kind of customers.

On the other hand, the document also highlighted the duties and responsibilities of a bank customer. These duties include; the duty of knowledge and sharing, the duty of obligation, the duty to protect instruments and information, the duty to factual information and not to mislead the bank, the duty to report suspected fraud or error, the duty of personal safety and safety of assets.

Further explanations on bank customers duties disclosed that customers are duty bound to report promptly any suspected wrong postings into their accounts so that such errors can be corrected immediately.

It is the duty of customers to ensure that cheque books, ATM cards and all information relating to their accounts like PIN, passwords, codes, etc are safe.

As a bank customer, you are also required to repay credit facilities and pay mutually agreed interest on loans and other financial services rendered by your bank as and when due.

The CBN, under Governor Olayemi Cardoso, is committed to ensuring that bank customers have a clear knowledge of their rights and duties to enhance smooth banking operations across the country.



■ L-R: Abia Commissioner for Information and Culture, Sir Okey Kanu and Deputy Chief of Staff office of the Deputy Gov, Barr. Chijioke Nwankwo, during the 2nd batch of Abia Leadership Program at Umuahia

### Abia Surpasses 2025 Health Insurance Target, Expands Healthcare Access

By Amarachi Uzoukoku

**T**he Abia State Health Insurance Scheme has surpassed its 2025 enrolment target of 100,000 participants, recording 103,076 enrollees as of August 17.

Commissioner for Information, Prince Okey Kanu, made this known recently in Umuahia, while briefing journalists on the outcome of the State Executive Council meeting, presided over by Governor Alex Otti.

"The current enrollment figure is 103,076 participants. This is more than an eloquent endorsement of the scheme by the sector participants and a display of an abiding trust by the participants that the scheme has the potential to address their most pressing health care needs", Prince

Kanu said.

He disclosed that enrolment for the informal sector will start this week, with details to be made available soon.

Prince Kanu also revealed that the Ministry of Health recently created two new departments; the Abia Drug and Medical Commodities Management Agency and the Department of Nutrition, in line with the Federal Government's N-774 Nutrition Initiative.

The Commissioner also revealed that 121 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) have been completed under the Government's Project Ekwueme, with 17 already completed and 33 currently being equipped.

"Thirty-three of the completed PHCs are being equipped currently and ready for functionalisation.

When completed, this will bring the total number of functionalised PHCs to 50.

"The next batch to be functionalised thereafter, will be another 50. And this will form part of the third phase of the completed PHCs to be fully equipped for use by members of the public", the Commissioner explained.

Prince Kanu noted that delays in meeting the earlier 100-day completion target were caused by an expanded scope of work, weather conditions and contractor lapses, adding that the revised completion date is now set for October 31, 2025.

The Commissioner cited the growing public confidence in the health sector with bed occupancy at ABSUTH which rose from 50 per cent in August 2024 to 100 per cent in March 2025, as a result of the

investment in the healthcare sector by the present administration.

"The upward swing in the bed occupancy rate speaks to the high level of investment that the state government has made in terms of equipment and medical personnel in the health sector. This is the story of other state-owned health facilities", he said.

Prince Kanu further disclosed that the State Executive Council also approved a new Health, Safety and Environment Policy for civil servants, which he described as a major milestone in the State Government's determination to cater for the health, safety and well-being of its workforce, adding that implementation details would be approved by the governor.

### Chief Nwagwu Expresses Joy Over Ibeku Egwu Asaa New Yam Festival

By Offor Okechukwu

**T**he Ibeku Egwu Asaa Development Association has been called to see New Yam Festival as an annual cultural event that marks the beginning of the harvest season celebrated by the Ibeku people with great enthusiasm deeply rooted in the Ibeku culture and ingrained in the community's identity which must be sustained for posterity.

Speaking during the 2025 Iriji ceremony of Ibeku Egwu Asaa Clans, the Secretary General, Chief John Nwagwu, expressed joy that the festival which brings together

annually the seven clans - Eke, Afarata, Emede, Ossah, Afaraukwu, Ndume and Amaforo, is a way to give thanks to God for a bountiful harvest and a time of abundance, joy, and a peculiar time to express gratitude for the blessings of the land while describing yam as the king of all crops and a staple food in Igbo land particularly Ibeku.

Also speaking, the Traditional Prime Minister of Emede Autonomous Community, Chief Lawrence Okezie Odoemelam, stated that the new yarm festival is a way to preserve and showcase the rich cultural heritage of Ibeku people, an avenue to achieve social cohesion and

strengthen the social bonds that unite the Ibeku Egwu Asaa clans.

Chief Odoemelam noted that the new yarm festival is a time for Ibeku people to reunite, share meals, exchange gifts, promote unity and solidarity among the Ibeku Egwu Asaa clans, as well as, foster a sense of belonging and togetherness. Contributing, the 2025 Chairman of Iri-ji Ibeku Committee, Chief Nwabueke Ukaire, stressed that Ndilbeku Egwu Asaa are traditionally farming people, involved actively in trading and exchange of goods and services as custodians of many traditional values in each of the seven clans called Egwu Asaa

that make up Ibeku nation.

In their collective remarks for the 2025 Ibeku Egwu Asaa new yarm festival, the President General Ibeku Ancient Kingdom, High Chief Jerry Onyemachi and the National President, Ibeku Youth Association, Chief Chiedozie Martins Nwosu, expressed delight for the success of 2025 new yarm festival of Ibeku Egwu Asaa clans and prayed for the peace and unity of Igbo land and Nigeria at large.

The 2025 Ibeku Egwu Asaa new yarm festival featured cultural display by the Seven Egwus, cutting of the new yarm, awards and recognition, among others.

## News

### Otti Inaugurates ASCETA, Transport Boards, Charges Members on Commitment

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

**A**bia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, has inaugurated the Governing Boards of the Abia State College of Education (Technical), Arochukwu (ASCETA), and the Abia State Transport Corporation, with a charge on members to demonstrate total commitment in the discharge of their duties.

Dr. Joe Emeson was named Chairman of the ASCETA Governing Council, while Mr. Emmanuel Ufomba was inaugurated as Chairman of the Abia State Transport Corporation. Also sworn in was the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Women Affairs, Mrs. Chinenye Nwaka.

The inauguration, which took place shortly after the State Executive Council meeting at Nvosi, Isiala Ngwa South LGA, saw Governor Otti reminding the appointees that they were carefully selected after a rigorous process and must justify the confidence reposed in them.

"I want to thank you for your sacrifice and for accepting to serve our state. The job requires full commitment, and I have no doubt that you will all give your best to the development of Abia," the Governor said.

Responding on behalf of the new appointees, ASCETA Board Chairman, Dr. Emeson, expressed gratitude to the Governor for the opportunity and assured that they would discharge their duties diligently. He pledged that the ASCETA Board would work to strengthen academic standards in the institution, stressing that education remains the bedrock of societal growth and development.

On his part, Mr. Ufomba told newsmen that his appointment aligns with his professional experience, promising to reposition the Transport Corporation in line with Governor Otti's vision of transforming the sector.

Full List of Inaugurated Members:

**Abia State College of Education (Technical), Arochukwu**

1. Dr. Joe Emeson – Chairman, Governing Council
2. Dr. (Mrs.) Idowu O. Eluwa – Provost, ASCETA

**Abia State Transport Corporation**

1. Emmanuel M. Ufomba – Chairman
2. Godanswer P. Kalu – Member
3. Mrs. Salomey Onwu – Member
4. Kingsley Oriaku – Member
5. Onyebuchi Nna – Member

## Oyibgo Residents Abandon Houses, Businesses Over Flooding

By Jane Maduadugwo, Port Harcourt

**F**looding continues to ravage parts of Oyibo Local Government Area in Rivers State, forcing residents to abandon their homes and businesses.

While many blame overflowing rivers for the menace, the President-General of the Movement for the Development of OyiboNdoki Asa Ethnic Nationality, Dr. Victor Okpute, has clarified that the floods are largely a result of flash flooding and poor drainage, not rivers bursting their banks.

Speaking with our reporter, Dr. Okpute lamented that

government's approach to road construction in Oyibo has worsened the situation rather than improved it.

"Government should start by installing drainage systems along internal roads. In some places where they tried constructing roads, such as the Old Port Harcourt-Aba Road, the drainages were channelled directly into people's homes. This makes flooding unbearable for the environment," he explained.

He further stressed that if the state government could adopt a policy of constructing functional drainages in both urban and rural

Oyibo, it would drastically reduce the frequency and severity of floods in the area.

According to him, several families have already been displaced due to the perennial flooding. He also faulted the Flood Committee recently formed by the local government administrator, noting that nothing tangible has been achieved.

"Residents themselves are also contributing to the problem by indiscriminately dumping refuse inside drainage systems where they exist. Government must empower environmental health officers to check such practices and enforce

compliance. Shop owners must also be compelled to clear blocked drainages in front of their premises," Dr. Okpute said.

He called on Oyibo Local Government Council to reintroduce and enforce monthly environmental sanitation as part of efforts to restore cleanliness and mitigate flooding.

Adding to the concerns, a local businesswoman and resident of Oyibo market area, Mrs. Chinyere Amadi, told our reporter that each time there is heavy rainfall, her shop and goods are submerged.

"I have lost more than ₦300,000 worth of goods

this year alone because of flooding. The worst part is that we don't see government presence. The flood committee is not doing anything. All they do is come and take pictures," she said.

Mrs. Amadi urged both the Rivers State Government and Oyibo Local Government to treat flooding as an emergency, warning that many small businesses may collapse if no urgent action is taken.

Residents said unless urgent measures such as drainage construction, waste management enforcement, and sustained environmental sanitation are prioritized, flooding will remain a recurring nightmare in Oyibo.



9,000-Bed Smart Hostel for UNIUYO Students

## TOA to Build 9,000-Bed Smart Hostel for UNIUYO Students

From Lovina Emole

**A**non-governmental organization, Titi Oluwadare and Associates (TOA), has unveiled plans to construct a 9,000-bed capacity smart hostel for students of the University of Uyo (UNIUYO), Akwa Ibom State.

communication to drastically cut internet costs, Agricultural projects such as a palm fruit refinery, rice plantation and processing plant, and cassava processing plant in Akwa Ibom among others.

He emphasized that the projects will promote local content development, create massive job opportunities, and align with the Akwa Ibom State Government's ARISE Agenda.

"The community will be fully digitalized from the gate, with no vehicles allowed except eco-friendly ones. Every student will enjoy access to laptops, steady internet, and world-class learning facilities," Dowells stated.

He added that Speednet Technology—available only in the United States and Nigeria, with headquarters in Akwa Ibom—will give the state a competitive edge in digital education and attract foreign students.

The press conference was attended by Engr. Frank Oyewale, Dr. Gordons Henry, and Mr. Dominic Okon, among other officials.

Speaking at a press briefing in Uyo on Thursday, the African Representative and Head of Projects/Implementation, Amb. Dr. Paul Dowells, said the project will kick off in September and is expected to be completed within 18 months.

According to him, the smart hostel will be the first of its kind in Nigeria, fully digitalized and equipped with modern facilities such as laptops for students, high-speed internet powered by Speednet satellite technology, e-library services, and eco-friendly transportation within the premises.

Dowells also announced other initiatives by the group, including: 500 housing units for UNIUYO staff, a 400-bed guest facility, Speednet satellite

## Abia Govt Moves to Mitigate Climate Change

By Adindu Stephanie

**A** major step forward in the fight against climate change was taken as the three-day Climate Change Stakeholders' Engagement Meeting concluded in Umuahia, delivering a significant breakthrough in policy development aimed at promoting a low-carbon and climate-resilient future.

Organized by the Office of the Special Assistant to the Governor on Climate Change and Sustainability, in collaboration with the Partnership for Agile Governance and Climate Engagement (PACE), the meeting had as its theme: "Driving Climate Action: A Low-Carbon Future for Sustainable Development."

Speaking at the event's closing session, the Commissioner for Environment, Mr. Philemon Asonye Ogbonna, described the meeting as a "crucial milestone" in the state's climate action journey. Represented by the Special Assistant to the Governor on Climate Change and Sustainability, Ms. Esther Chioima Aja, the

Commissioner announced the successful finalization of a new climate policy document that will serve as a strategic roadmap for implementing sustainable and low-carbon development initiatives.

According to Ms. Aja, the policy outlines comprehensive measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation. These include promoting renewable energy, building climate-resilient infrastructure, enhancing environmental governance, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions across sectors.

"The document will not only guide our implementation strategies but also position the state to effectively access climate finance and funding opportunities," she stated.

In their joint remarks, the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries of Information and Finance, Sir Chris Onwuegbu and Mrs. Agatha Obi Chianakwalam, commended the organizers and emphasised the importance of inclusive participation.

They expressed optimism that the newly developed policy will drive transformative climate action and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy.

The permanent secretaries called for stronger collaboration between the public and private sectors, urging increased investments in clean energy, sustainable agriculture, and environmentally responsible infrastructure projects.

The three-day engagement brought together a wide range of stakeholders—including policy makers, environmental experts, development partners, and civil society representatives—to deliberate on key issues and shape a unified climate governance framework for the state.

With the adoption of this policy, the state now stands better equipped to confront the challenges of climate change while promoting economic growth and environmental sustainability.



# Editorial

## Abia At 34: A Time To Reflect And Rejoice

**A**ugust 27, 2025, marked the 34th anniversary of the creation of Abia State; a milestone that calls for both joyous celebration and sober reflection. Since its birth in 1991, carved from the old Imo State by General Ibrahim Babangida, Abia has grown from modest beginnings into "God's Own State," defined by resilience, enterprise, and unity.

The foresight of Abia's founding fathers must be remembered with gratitude. Their bold leadership and unshakable faith laid the foundation of a state bound by shared heritage and collective courage. On this anniversary, we honour not only the political leaders, but also the farmers, traders, artisans, and ordinary citizens whose sacrifices built the State we now call home.

Abia's history has been shaped by a mix of military administrators and elected civilian governors, each leaving their imprint on the State's journey. Dr. Ogonnaya Onu, the State's pioneer civilian governor (1992-1993), laid the first building blocks of governance before the military intervened. During the years of military rule, Abia was steered by administrators such as Group Captain Frank Ajobena, Navy Captain Temi Ejoor, Commodore Uche Chukwumerije (acting), Colonel Chinyere Ike Nwosu, Colonel Temi Akande, and Colonel Moses Fasanya. Their tenure, though transitional, helped maintain the State's administrative structures through turbulent times.

The return of democracy in 1999 ushered in Dr. Orji Uzor Kalu, who served for eight years and gave prominence to infrastructural expansion and commerce. He was succeeded by Chief Theodore Ahamufule Orji (2007-2015), whose years were marked by efforts at governance restructuring. Dr. Okezie Victor Ikpeazu (2015-2023) focused attention on road rehabilitation with limited success.

Today, under the stewardship of Dr. Alex Chioma Otti (2023-date), Abia is experiencing a bold reform-driven era anchored on transparency, accountability, and people-centred governance. Each administration, despite challenges, has contributed to shaping Abia's evolving story.

Abia's greatest strength lies in its people. Blessed with fertile farmlands, rich mineral deposits, and thriving commerce especially in Aba, famously dubbed the "Japan of Africa" and Umuahia, the State capital, Abia continues to showcase the creativity and industriousness of its citizens. The Ariaria International Market remains a beacon of innovation and resilience, reminding the world that Ndi Abia thrive against all odds.

This 34th anniversary offers a special opportunity to reflect on the remarkable progress under Governor Alex Chioma Otti's watch in just 27 months. His administration has set a new tone in governance, restoring trust and rekindling hope among Ndi Abia. Roads that were once impassable are now opening new economic corridors. Cities are cleaner and better managed. Salaries and pensions are paid promptly and an administrative discipline that had long eluded the State has been enthroned. Security has been strengthened, with a clear message that violence and criminality will find no haven in Abia.

The 2025 "Budget of Sustained Momentum", which allocates an unprecedented 82 percent of revenue to capital projects, speaks to Gov Otti's long-term vision. Investments in schools, vocational training, and healthcare facilities underline a governance style that prioritises human capital as the driver of development. By daring to dream bigger and execute bolder reforms, Governor Otti has repositioned Abia State on the path to sustainable development.

Yet, the journey is not without its hurdles, sustainability of revenue targets, underscores the need for continuous transparency and accountability. Projects such as the long-awaited Federal Secretariat also demand not just political will but unified advocacy from leaders and citizens alike.

At 34, Abia stands at a pivotal crossroad. The State has achieved much, but the road to true greatness lies ahead. The responsibility rests on the Abia government and citizens alike to recommit to a culture of excellence. Paying taxes, engaging in civic duties, and safeguarding public resources remain critical if the gains of today are to endure.

As we celebrate this anniversary, let us keep faith with the dreams of our pioneers and draw inspiration from the renewed spirit of governance. Abia must continue to shine as a beacon of resilience and ingenuity. With steadfast unity, shared responsibility, and visionary leadership as exemplified in the giant strides of Governor Alex Otti—the future holds great promise of prosperity for all.

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

## Estimated Electricity Bills: Punishment & Hardtimes

Dear Editor,

**I**t is with deep concern that I wish to highlight the growing menace of outrageous estimated electricity bills being imposed on residents across Umuahia and many parts of Nigeria. This exploitative practice has become a cruel punishment on citizens who are already battling for daily survival in the face of inflation, high fuel prices, and rising food costs.

In Umuahia, the situation has reached an unbearable level. Residents of the World Bank Housing Estate, for instance, are being forced to pay between N47,000 and N53,000 every month as electricity; bills that are not only unjustifiable but also grossly out of tune with the poor power supply they receive. How can households that barely enjoy six to eight hours of power daily be compelled to part with such outrageous sums? For context, this amount is more than the entire monthly minimum wage of an average Nigerian worker, leaving families with no option than to either borrow to pay, cut down on basic needs like food and healthcare, or simply endure disconnection.

The irony is painful: citizens are asked to pay luxury-level tariffs for darkness. Businesses that depend on electricity to survive—barbers, welders, small retail shops, cold room operators—are being crippled by this trend. Some have closed down entirely, while others spend more on fuel for generators, passing the cost to consumers and further worsening inflation. The multiplier effect is devastating: loss of jobs, rising unemployment, and a general decline in quality of life.

This problem persists because the power sector has failed to achieve universal deployment of prepaid meters, despite several government promises and interventions. Estimated billing has become a loophole exploited by electricity distribution companies to milk helpless citizens. Sadly, regulatory bodies like the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), who should defend consumers, have not shown enough bite.

What Nigerians demand is simple and just: we should only pay for the power we actually consume. No more, no less. Government must urgently enforce mass metering, sanction erring distribution companies, and introduce stricter consumer protection measures. Citizens cannot continue to pay for inefficiency and systemic failure.

Electricity is not a luxury; it is a necessity for education, health, business, and security. To deny people affordable and fair access electricity through exploitative billing is to deny them the opportunity to live decently and productively. If nothing is done, the anger and frustration of citizens will continue to mount, eroding confidence in governance and in the reforms of the power sector.

It is high time that leaders and regulators listened to the cry of ordinary Nigerians. We are not asking for favours—we are only asking for fairness. Let every home and business be issued with a prepaid metered, and let people pay for what they consume, not for what distribution companies imagine. Anything less is daylight robbery.

**Okenwa, Adaku Jane**  
Umuahia, Abia State.

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## Special Focus

# From Grassroots to Glory: Abia's Journey in Sports Development In 34 Years

**A**s Abia State celebrates 34 years of existence and reflects on two years of Governor Alex Chioma Otti's administration, attention turns to progress across various sectors, including sports. Fondly known as God's Own State, Abia has produced some of Nigeria's finest athletes and is home to iconic clubs such as Enyimba International FC and Abia Warriors.

At the centre of the state's sports revival is Director of Sports, Abia State Sports Council, Comrade Obioma George. A dedicated administrator and passionate advocate for youth empowerment through athletics, Comrade George has played a pivotal role in grassroots sports development across the 17 Local Government Areas of the state. With a strong background in sports management and community mobilization, he has led initiatives to revitalize facilities, discover young talents, and promote a multi-sport culture.

In this special interview anchored by the Ag. Editor, *National Ambassador Newspaper*, Deacon Chukwuemeka Egejuru, the Director of Sports Abia State, Comrade George speaks on Abia's sporting journey, the impact of Governor Otti's administration, and his vision for the future.

### Excerpts:

*Abia State is 34 years old. Looking back, how would you describe the journey of sports development since its creation in 1991?*

Sports in Abia started on a progressive note. As at 1991, it was sound and vibrant under the leadership of the then Director of Sports, Mr. Anelechi Obonna. From August 1991 to December 2002, Abia dominated weightlifting, athletics, female volleyball, and handball — with the famous Valiant Handball Team ruling both Nigeria and Africa.

After his exit, fortunes dwindled. But under Governor Alex Chioma Otti, that lost glory is being restored. Today, sports in Abia have a clear direction, better infrastructure, renewed hope, and public confidence. Abia is once again recognized as a serious sporting state.

*What landmark achievements can you highlight from the Sports Council over the years?*

The Valiant Handball Team remains one of our proudest legacies. Abia has also consistently produced world-class champions in weightlifting and powerlifting. Notably, at the Paris Paralympics, Onyinyechi Gift, an Abian, won Nigeria's first gold medal.

Under Governor Otti, new investments in equipment and facilities are opening up fresh opportunities for athletes.

*Under Governor Otti's administration, what key improvements have been made?*

Several dormant sports have been revived, including volleyball, handball, and athletics. The state has procured modern equipment in weightlifting, powerlifting, basketball, and track events — facilities we lacked for decades.

*What policies are in*

*place to support grassroots sports development?*

Physical Education has been reintroduced in schools, ensuring at least two sports periods weekly. The Secondary School Games have been revived, providing a platform for young talents.

In 2023, Abia placed 2nd overall at the National Para Games, a strong sign that grassroots participation is yielding results across all 17 LGAs.

*How has funding and infrastructure been addressed?*

This is the best funding Abia sports has received since state creation. For the first time in decades, government is giving sports the attention it deserves.

*Can you mention athletes positively impacted in the last two years?*

Yes. Chinenye Okafor Junior in table tennis represented Nigeria at the Africa Secondary School Games in Algeria. Beyond her, many Abia athletes are winning medals nationally and internationally in table tennis, athletics, para-badminton, cricket, and handball.

*Which sport brought Abia its first medal of 2025?*

Table tennis. At the 56th Molade Okoya Thomas National Championship in Lagos (Jan. 27 - 30), Chinenye Grace Okafor won gold.

*How did Abia fare in cricket?*

The U-17 female team finished 3rd at the PWC U-17 Cricket Championship in Ebonyi (Feb. 5 - 10). Abia also hosted a 3-day "Train the Trainers" course in Umuahia (June 11 - 12), boosting grassroots development.

*Any international medals?*

Yes. At the Level 2 Para-Badminton Championship in Spain (March 4 - 9, 2025), Eze Chukwuebuka



**Comrade Obioma George**  
Director of Sports, Abia State Sports Council

and Jeremiah Nnana won bronze in men's doubles.

*How about handball and team sports?*

At the National U-12 & U-15 Championship in Umuahia, Abia's boys and girls U-15 teams both finished 1st.

At the National Division One Handball League in Umuahia, the men's team finished 1st, qualifying for the top league.

In volleyball, Abia's female team The Excelsiors finished 2nd at the National League (August), while the male team placed 8th.

*What are the highlights in athletics and marathon events?*

Abia athletes excelled: MTN Making of Champions, Uyo (May): 2 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze.

Esther Affigbo starred in long-distance races: Benin 10km Marathon (gold), ECOWAS Abuja 21km (silver), and Enugu City Marathon (silver).

*Any major multi-sport festivals?*

NDDC Sports Festival, Uyo (April): 7th overall with 32 medals (9 gold, 10 silver, 13 bronze).

National Sports Festival, Ogun (May): 11th overall with 63 medals (10 gold, 16 silver, 37 bronze).

2nd Abia State Governor's Unity Games (July - Aug.): over 4,000 student-athletes competed. Ikwuano LGA topped with 45 gold, 45 silver, 41 bronze.

*How strong is Abia in table tennis?*

Very strong. Chinenye Okafor and Elizabeth Emelike dominated:

Effiong Edem Championship, Uyo (April): 2 gold, 1 bronze.

National Junior Camp, Abuja (May): Okafor and Sontichukwu Emeka won 1st place each.

Nigerian Federation Championship, Abuja: Okafor (gold), Emelike (silver).

*What about para-sports?*

Abia is a powerhouse:

National Open Para-Badminton (Umuahia, July): 1st overall with 17 medals (4 gold, 4 silver, 9 bronze).

ValueJet World Para Table Tennis, Lagos (July): Goodness Young won 1 silver and 1 bronze.

*Any notable*

*achievements in wrestling and basketball?*

South East Wrestling Championship, Enugu (July): 2 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze.

Fifty-One Alliance Basketball Cup, Umuahia (June): De Stones Academy finished 2nd.

*What efforts are being made to nurture young talents across the 17 LGAs?*

Through the National Youth Games, we scout children from all LGAs, refine their skills, and expose them to bigger competitions. Governor Otti's support makes him the most sports-friendly governor in Abia since 1991.

*Do you believe sports helps curb youth restiveness and crime?*

Absolutely. Sports keeps youths busy, engaged, and away from crime. Every week, Abia hosts activities that draw youths to training rather than social vices. The governor is deliberately using sports as a tool for crime reduction and youth empowerment.

*What is the current state of Abia's sporting facilities?*

Frankly, we lack a standard stadium. Enyimba Stadium is below international standard, while Umuahia Township Stadium is just an enclosure. But Governor Otti has approved a facelift for Umuahia Stadium and maintenance at Enyimba Stadium. Plans are also underway for a world-class 35,000-capacity stadium, with site clearing already begun.

*Beyond football, how is the council promoting othersports?*

We now participate in 31 sports (up from 20 - 25 previously). At the National Youth Games, Abia fields athletes in athletics, basketball, wrestling, boxing, traditional sports, and more.

*What steps are being*

*taken to attract private investors?*

We are establishing Sports Associations in every discipline. These associations will drive sponsorships and partnerships, reducing the financial burden on government.

*Is there a meeting point between sports and education in Abia?*

Yes. Through the Ministry of Sports and Youth Development, we are partnering with a UK-based Sports School to run programmes at Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic, Abia. This allows youths to combine education with sports training.

*How does the Sports Council collaborate with national and international bodies?*

There's a clear structure — from international federations to national federations and down to states. Abia provides the athletes who eventually represent Nigeria globally.

*What is your vision for Abia sports in the coming years?*

To see Team Abia dominate nationally and globally. Already, things have improved greatly under Governor Otti. My dream is for youths to embrace sports as a viable career path, even without academic qualifications.

*What legacy would you want to leave?*

Sports is light. I want to be remembered as the Director who helped Abia youths use sports to rise, fend for themselves, and live meaningful lives.

*Finally, expectations are high for the 2025 National Youth Games. What should Abians expect?*

For the first time, Abia is traveling with 281 athletes across 31 sports. This is unprecedented. Last year, 15 of our athletes were selected into Nigeria's National Youth Camp. This year, our target is a top 5 finish on the medal table.



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**ABIA @ 34**  
*Congratulations*  
TO HIS EXCELLENCY  
**GOVERNOR ALEX OTTI (OFRC)**  
FOR TRANSFORMING  
**"THE ABIA DREAM"**  
INTO REALITY

On behalf of Waymaker Plantation Ltd, OADU and the people of Abam community, we hereby use the opportunity of the celebration of Abia @ 34 years to express our sincere gratitude for the monumental strides your administration has recorded within a short period of two years.

There is no doubt that such uncommon transformation is serving to transform the dream of the founding fathers of the state into reality.

We, particularly note with pride the impact your administration is making in our native Abam community which includes the following

- A. The Construction of a brand new Omenuko bridge
- B. The construction Ozu- Ndi Okereke Abam- Arochukwu Road
- C. The Construction of Abam ring road.
- D. The establishment of Abam General Hospital.
- E. The renovation and retrofitting of various health centres in Abam.
- F. The renovation of Public Schools in Abam
- F. The recruitment of qualified Abam sons and daughters into positions of trust in your government plus many other goodies.

These developments have greatly enhanced connectivity and improved the quality of life in our community. Your commitment to infrastructural development reflects your dedication to Abia State's progress.

The occasion of Abia @ 34 is indeed an excellent opportunity to say thank you for your support towards our community.

Kaa Sir, Imela

**Chief Emmanuel Onyeani**

Chairman

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## Abuja Digest

with Sophina Ovuike  
+2348037744514

### SERAP Urges Tinubu To Reject Unlawful Pay Rise For Politicians

**T**he Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP), has called on President Bola Tinubu to stop the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) from implementing an "unlawful and unconstitutional" pay rise for political and public office holders.

SERAP insists that any increase in the salaries of the president, vice president, governors, deputies, and lawmakers would be unjustifiable, given the current economic realities. The group argued that the RMAFC has no constitutional or statutory power to raise the pay of political office holders arbitrarily.

"The RMAFC's constitutional and statutory mandates clearly do not imply the unrestrained powers to increase the salaries of the president, vice-president, governors, their deputies, and lawmakers," the letter read.

SERAP warned that approving the pay hike would further undermine citizens' trust in government, especially at a time of economic hardship.

"Suspending the imminent pay rise for political office holders would serve legitimate public interests. When the exercise of RMAFC's constitutional and statutory mandates clashes with Nigerians' fundamental rights, the public interest in

upholding these rights ought to prevail," SERAP stated.

According to SERAP, "Rather than reviewing downward the salaries of political and public office holders to reflect the current economic challenges in the country, the commission is arbitrarily increasing the salaries for the president, vice-president, governors and their deputies, and lawmakers.

The letter read in part, "the imminent pay rise for political and public office holders in Nigeria particularly the president, vice-president, governors and their deputies, and lawmakers is a gross misuse of the RMAFC's constitutional and statutory mandates."

SERAP urged President Tinubu to personally reject the proposal and encourage other political leaders to do the same.

The group also demanded that the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi, ensure compliance with a subsisting judgment directing RMAFC to review downward the salaries and allowances of National Assembly members.

SERAP requested that the recommended measures be taken within seven days of the receipt and/or publication of the letter. If not, SERAP shall take all appropriate legal actions to compel the government and RMAFC to comply with the request in the public interest.

### FCT Black Spots Under Siege

**I**n a bid to combat drug-related crimes in the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, the Anti-Narcotics Section of the FCT Police Command has launched a series of targeted raids across notorious hotspots.

From August 1, 2025, to date, police officers have conducted co-ordinated operations to rid the area of illicit substances and curb associated crimes.

The FCT Police Command's Anti-Narcotics Section conducted a series of operations in several areas, including Asokoro, Trademore, Mapape, Kurudu, Kubwa, Gwarimpa, Jikwoyi, Utako, Life Camp, Zuba, and Karshi. These efforts resulted in the arrest

of 116 suspects.

During the operations, police recovered various illicit substances, hard drugs, and dried leaves suspected to be cannabis.

After thorough screening, 89 suspects were released, while 27 offenders were charged to court for public nuisance and possession of illicit substances.

FCT Commissioner of Police, Ajao S. Adewale, commended the operatives for their efforts, reaffirming the command's commitment to maintaining a safe and drug-free capital city.

He urged residents to remain law-abiding, avoid hard drug abuse and trafficking, and support ongoing security initiatives.

## Abia At 34: Abians In Abuja, Diaspora, Others Hail Gov Otti's Administration

**A**s Abia State celebrates its 34th anniversary, Abians residing in Abuja and members of the Abia diaspora across the world have poured out commendations for Governor Alex Otti, hailing his administration as one of the most impactful in the state's history.

Abians speaking with Abuja Digest as Abia marks 34 years, both Igbo and non-Igbo residents united to applaud Governor Otti's strides in education, infrastructure renewal, sanitation, and commercial revival across the 17 local government areas of Abia.

Speaking President and founder Noble Ladies Association International, based in Abuja, Mrs. Margaret Chigozie Mkpuma praised the governor for "bringing Abia back to life," especially in transforming the education sector by rebuilding primary and secondary schools across the state. She described his administration as "a shining example for other states to emulate."

Mr. Mkpuma commended Governor Otti's giant strides in education, infrastructure, and sanitation.

She has praised the leadership of Governor Alex Otti for his transformative impact across Abia State, particularly in urban renewal, and sanitation. She described his administration as people-focused and performance-driven.

According to her, Governor Otti has rebuilt and equipped primary and secondary schools across the 17 local government areas, ensuring that children learn in safe, modern environments. "The Governor understands that education is the bedrock of development, and he has shown this through action," she stated.

She also applauded the reconstruction of key roads and market malls in Abia, describing it as a major boost to local commerce and business confidence.

"Abia is coming alive again; our traders and manufacturers are beginning to thrive," she added.

Furthermore, Mrs. Mkpuma hailed the Governor's efforts in "sanitation and urban cleanliness, noting that Abia has now become one of the cleanest cities in the



■ Gov. Alex Otti

South-East, attracting visitors, investors, and buyers from across the country.

Also lending his voice was Mr. Ndubusi Ironkwe from Ikwuano local government area of Abia state, based in New York, USA. He commended the Governor's achievements, communicated to Abuja Digest through his mobile phone saying "Governor Otti has not only transformed Abia State; he has restored pride in us as Abians in the diaspora. From education to sanitation, he is building a new foundation for future generations."

An Abuja-based Abians, echoed similar sentiments, stating that the once-dubbed neglected state has now become a model of progress and accountability. Aba, under Governor Otti's leadership,

is regaining its status as the commercial heartbeat of Africa, with clean streets, modern market malls, and increased economic activity.

Thanks to improved sanitation policies, Aba is now widely regarded as the cleanest city in the South-East, drawing traders and visitors from far and wide, as it did in its glory days. The Governor's openness to engaging with Abians abroad has also led to renewed interest and investment from Abia professionals in the diaspora, many of whom are now returning to support the development drive.

"They attribute Abia's rapid growth and development to Governor Otti's administration, which has catapulted the state to one of the fastest-

rising in the South-East. His leadership has garnered widespread acclaim, with his reforms setting a new standard for governance in Nigeria."

"Otti's administration has been credit," with transforming Abia into a thriving state, earning recognition beyond its borders. His reforms are being closely watched and emulated, establishing a benchmark for effective governance in the country."

"Abians praised Governor Otti's leadership, saying it has propelled the state to the forefront of development in the South-East. His administration's reforms are gaining traction, with many looking to Abia as a model for good governance."

"The impact of Governor Otti's administration is being felt across the Southeast, with Abia emerging as one of the region's fastest-rising states. His leadership has earned widespread recognition, and his reforms are influencing governance practices nationwide."

Governor Otti's inclusive, transparent, and results-driven leadership is widely seen as the turning point in Abia's 34-year history, placing the state on the map as one of Nigeria's most promising subnational economies."

### EFCC Boss Calls For Greater Accountability From Nigerian Lawmakers

**T**he Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Ola Olukoyede, has urged legislators to prioritize accountability and good governance. He made this call recently in Abuja.

Speaking at the Policy Dialogue and Public Unveiling of the 10th National Assembly's Deliberative Barometer and Policy Focus Productivity Report, Olukoyede emphasized the importance of accountability in legislative governance.

The event was themed "Legislative Governance Accountability and Productivity Index" and organized by the Erudite Growth and Advancement Foundation (ERGAF-Africa) in collaboration with the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC).

Olukoyede, who spoke

through the Director of Public Affairs, Commander CE Wilson Uwujaren, urged organizers to prioritize governance and accountability issues concerning legislators.

He noted that the report and discussions presented were silent on accountability in governance, but commended the organizers for their efforts.

Earlier in his address, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Abbas Tajudeen, represented by Hon. Cyril Godwin Hart, emphasized the need to raise the standard of representation, lawmaking, and oversight.

He highlighted the importance of spotlighting legislative output to deepen democratic culture and make a stronger impact on legislative processes.

Speaking, the Director General of the National

Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies, Prof. Abubakar SuLeman praised the launch of the initiative, stating that it would provide valuable data to evaluate the activities of the 10th Assembly. He noted that accurate data and artificial intelligence would drive decisions, enhancing transparency and accountability in governance.

Also, in a goodwill message, Hon. Bamidele Salam appreciated the organizers and emphasized that leadership is about taking people to where they should be.

He stressed that citizens are more interested in the dividends of democracy and the fruits of the mandate given to legislators, calling for government support to sustain the initiative.



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*Date: 31-10-23*

## PUBLIC NOTICE! PUBLIC NOTICE!

This is to notify the General public and more particularly the people of Umuada village in Ipu East Autonomous Community in Ukwa West Local Government Area of Abia State that judgement in Suit No. CC/BH/27/2013 Between CHIEF Felix Nwari Mr Anthony C. Nwachukwu and others (for themselves and representing Umuada village of Obheie in Ukwa West Local Government Area of Abia State) 'Claimants' AND MR Adele Nwachukwu, Chief Anthony O. Enyinna and Others (For themselves and representing Nwachukwu Nworguala family of Obheie in Ukwa West Local Government Area of Abia State) 'Defendants' which has been in court for about 13 years was delivered on the 29th day of September 2023 at the Obheie Customary Court, by His Hon. P.U Nwosu ESQ and the court ordered as follows:

1. A declaration that from time Immemorial there is no village known as and called Umuada village in Ipu East Autonomous community and Isi Obheie Autonomous community in Ukwa West Local Government Area of Abia State Nigeria.
2. A declaration that both the claimants and the defendants are from history known as Umuada village in Ipu East Autonomous community in Ukwa West Local Government. Area of Abia State Nigeria.
3. A declaration that defendants are bound by the verdict of the customary arbitration of Agu Lorre House Baa Lorre village Nyekana District, Knalga Ogoni Rivers State dated 26/9/2002 which adjudged the claimant's ancestors as the founders and bonafide landlords of Umuada village, which customary arbitration the defendants voluntarily initiated and submitted to.
4. A declaration that the defendants are members of Umu Nwachukwu Nwoarguala Elele family in Umuada village Obheie Asa in Ipu East Autonomous community in Ukwa West Local Government Area Abia State and as such cannot unilaterally change the name of the entire village from Umuada to Umuala village in Obheie Asa.
5. A declaration that the purported change of name by the defendants from Umuada village to Umuala village in Ipu East Autonomous community in Ukwa

West Local Government Area Abia State without the consent and approval of the chief, elders, and heads of different families that make up Umuada village is null and void.

6. An order of perpetual injunction restraining the defendants either by themselves, agents, servants, privies and howsoever described from using the name Umuada village or representing or placing any inscription at Umuada village which purport to indicate that the name of Umuada village has been changed or was changed to Umuala village.
7. An order of mandatory injunction directing the defendants to remove forthwith all signboards, inscriptions or mark bearing the name of Umuada village place in Umuada village which indicates or suggests that the name Umuada village was changed or has been changed to Umuala village.

Consequent upon the above order the general public is hereby to take notice that there is no village in Ipu East Autonomous Community and Isi Obheie Autonomous community in Ukwa West Local Government Area of Abia State known as or called Umuada. The village is known as and called Umuada from time Immemorial and remains so.

Any person or group of persons who refers or intends to refer to Umuada village as Umuala in doing so at his/her own risk as it amounts to contempt of court which is punishable under our laws.

Let wise counsel prevail.

*H. A. Mbiwe Esq*  
**Henry Mac Mbiwe Esq**  
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## Religion

# Walking in Victory Over Sickness and Disease.

*By Bishop David Oyedepo*

**S**ickness and disease are not from God—they are strategies of the enemy to hinder your purpose and destiny. They are not part of your inheritance in Christ. As a child of God, you have been given power and authority to overcome every work of the enemy, including physical affliction Psalm 110:1-3. This dominion is not just a spiritual concept—it's meant to be lived and experienced in your daily life, through your covenant relationship with God.

God has not called you to live in fear or defeat. He wants you to live in health, strength, and victory. Jesus paid the price not just for our sins but also for our healing (Isaiah 53:5). When you understand and walk in this truth, you no longer accept sickness as normal. Instead, you begin to resist it with confidence, knowing that healing is your covenant right.

Just like a healthy tree needs to stay rooted to flourish, you need to stay planted in God's presence to grow strong and stable (Isaiah 61:3). When you're rooted in the place God has assigned you, your life becomes fruitful. But when you wander from His plan, you open yourself up to unnecessary battles. In these end times, God is revealing His glory through His people. One of the signs of His divine distinction is the exemption of His children from sickness,

disease, and affliction. You were not created just to survive—you were empowered to overcome.

Psalm 110:1 reminds us that Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father, and we are seated with Him in a place of authority. That means every enemy—including sickness—is meant to be under your feet. But to live this reality, you must pay attention to certain spiritual keys that keep you walking in that authority:

**1. Watch Who You Walk With**

Acts 4:25; 2 Samuel 7:10; Deuteronomy 12:13-14; Psalm 92:13

God places everyone in a spiritual family, just like He places us in our natural families. You don't choose where you're born, and spiritually, you don't choose your divine covering either. God has a church and a shepherd assigned to you for your spiritual growth and protection. Psalm 92:13 says, "Those who are planted in the house of the Lord will flourish." Flourishing doesn't happen in isolation—it happens when you're rooted where God has planted you.

Hopping from one church to another may seem exciting, but it can lead to spiritual confusion, lack of covering, and stagnation. Each time you uproot yourself, you disrupt the process of growth and delay your harvest. Your blessings, healing, and destiny

are often tied to the place God has appointed for you. Stay committed. That's where your spiritual nourishment and inheritance lie.

**2. Honor the Prophet God Sends to You**

Luke 4:25-27; Matthew 10:41; Hosea 12:13

Prophets are God's chosen vessels—sent to speak His word, provide guidance, and lead His people into their inheritance. The Bible says in Hosea 12:13, "By a prophet the

your prophet disconnects you from the grace he carries. Always see your prophet as a gift from God—not just for inspiration, but for impartation and direction.

**3. Build and Guard Your Faith**

(Habakkuk 2:4; Hebrews 3:12; 4:2)

Faith is not a group project—it's a personal responsibility. What becomes of your life is not determined by what others believe but by

with prayer and thanksgiving.

To grow in faith, you must stay spiritually thirsty. Isaiah 41:17 and John 7:37-39 tell us that God responds to those who are genuinely hungry and thirsty for Him. The more you desire Him, the more of His power you experience. Your faith gives you access to God's virtue—and that includes healing, health, and total restoration.

**4. Speak Life Over Your Body**

(Proverbs 18:21; Mark 11:23; Psalm 107:20)

One of the most powerful ways to walk in dominion over sickness is through your words. Proverbs 18:21 says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." What you say about your health matters. When you speak in agreement with God's Word, you activate divine power. But when you constantly talk about symptoms, fear, or defeat, you empower the problem instead.

Jesus said that if you speak to the mountain and do not doubt in your heart, it will move (Mark 11:23). That means you can speak healing, strength, and wholeness into your body daily. Psalm 107:20 says, "He sent His Word and healed them." Let the Word of God be in your mouth and on your tongue. Declare scriptures of healing and victory. Your words are spiritual weapons—use them wisely.

**5. Stay in Covenant**

Obedience

(Exodus 23:25-26; Deuteronomy 28:1-14)

Walking in divine health is a covenant blessing, and every covenant has conditions. Exodus 23:25-26 says, "You shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and water, and take sickness away from the midst of you." Your obedience to God positions you for His protection and favor.

Serving God is not just about activity—it's about loyalty, faithfulness, and surrender. When you live in obedience, sickness has no legal ground in your life. Covenant obedience keeps the hedge of divine covering around you. Disobedience, on the other hand, opens doors to attacks. Choose to live a life that pleases God, and watch Him fulfill His promise of health and long life.

You were not created to live under the shadow of sickness and disease. Through your covenant with God, you have been given authority to walk in divine health and victory. Stay planted in the place God has assigned you. Honor the spiritual leadership He has placed over your life. Build and protect your faith. Speak life over your body, and live in covenant obedience. As you do these things, sickness will no longer have a hold on you. Instead, you'll walk in strength, health, and the fullness of life that Christ has purchased for you.

**When you live in obedience, sickness has no legal ground in your life. Covenant obedience keeps the hedge of divine covering around you.**

Lord brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved." That means God uses prophets to deliver and protect His people.

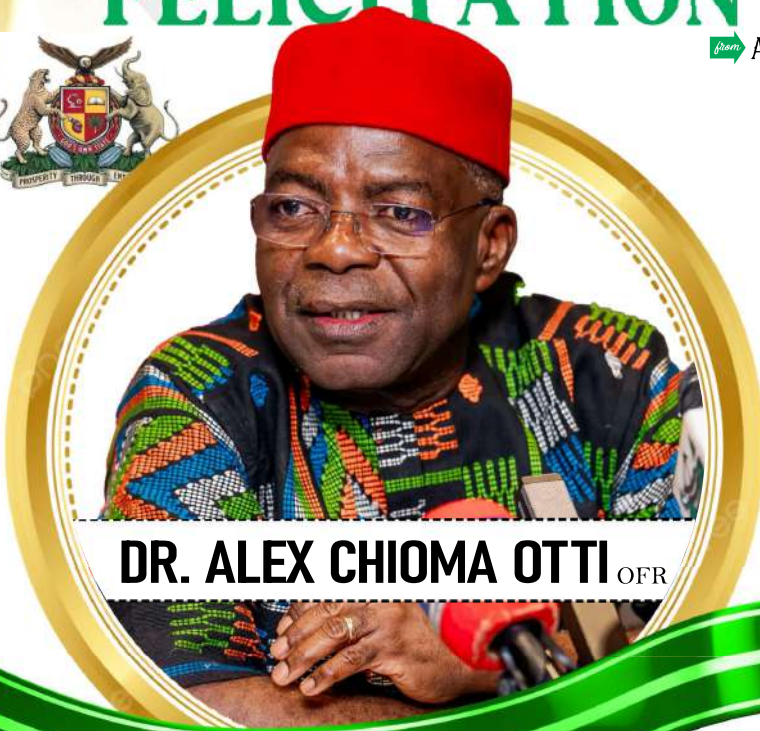
It is important to recognize and respect the prophet God has placed over your life. For those in the Winners' Family, Bishop David Oyedepo is not just a preacher—he is a prophet with a divine mandate to lead God's people into liberty. Mockery and criticism may come from outsiders who don't understand, but don't let that affect your honor. Dishonoring

what you believe. The Bible says, "The just shall live by faith" (Habakkuk 2:4). That means your life is sustained and powered by your personal faith in God.

Unbelief is dangerous. Hebrews 3:12 calls it an "evil heart" that turns away from God. Without faith, nothing moves in the Kingdom of God. Your healing, your breakthrough, and your victory are all received by faith. And faith doesn't grow passively—you must feed it with God's Word and water it

# FELICITATION MESSAGE

from Abia State Ministry of Agriculture



**DR. ALEX CHIOMA OTTI** OFR

CELEBRATING

**Abia**  
@

**34**

The management and entire staff of Ministry of Agriculture wish to express our heartfelt felicitation to our dear Governor, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, and the good people of Abia State on the 34th anniversary of our great state!

Our dear Governor, there is no gainsaying the fact that your leadership in the state has brought about unprecedented revolution in the agricultural sector in terms of growth and development. Indeed, your style of governance and leadership transformation has attracted more investors into the state, which has led to boosting the state's economy, empowering farmers, improved food security with its attendant direct impact on the lives of our people.

Thank you, our agriculture-friendly Governor, for your numerous achievements within this short period in your administration. We pray God to continue to give you wisdom and grant you good health as you continue to drive the progress and prosperity of our dear state.



**Happy anniversary!**

Signed

**Dr Cliff Agbaeze FCIB**  
**Hon Commissioner Abia State Ministry of Agriculture**



## Photos Speak



Gov. Alex Otti of Abia State,



Rep. Of the wife of the Governor, Prof. Ijeoma Iheukwumere(L) wife of the mayor, Mrs. Kelechi Uwabunkeonye, mayor of Bende, DCN. Uwabunkeonye Bassey and the Deputy Mayor. Hon. Ngozi Anya during Bende LGA Women August Conference



R-L: Perm Sec, Ministry of Infor. & Culture, Chief Chris Onwuegbu, GM ASEPA, Ogbonnaya Okereke and others, during the August Edition of Abia Gov's monthly Media Parley in his Nvosi home.



A cross section of Journalists, during the August Edition of Abia Governor's monthly Media Parley in his Nvosi home, Isiala Ngwa South LGA of Abia State.



Gov Alex Otti of Abia State, exchanging pleasantries with fmr deputy Gov. of Abia State, Sir Ude Oko Chukwu while his wife, Mrs Vivien Oko Chukwu watches with admiration.



L-R:- Former Deputy Gov of Abia State, Sir Ude Oko Chukwu, Gov Alex Otti and his deputy, Engr. Ikechukwu Emetu, during the official welcoming of former Deputy Gov, Sir Ude Oko Chukwu into Labour Party by Gov. Otti in his home town Nkpore, Ohafia LGA.



Abia Deputy Gov, Engr. Ikechukwu Emetu (2nd R), Gov Alex Otti (3rd R), Mrs Nnenna Vivien Oko Chukwu, her husband, former Deputy Gov, Sir Ude Oko Chukwu (c) and others, during the official welcoming of fmr Deputy Gov, Sir Ude Oko Chukwu into Labour Party by Gov Alex Otti in his home town, Nkpore, Ohafia LGA.

**Photos By Chukwu Chidiebere**

## Opinion

# Governor Alex Otti and the New Political Awakening in Abia State

By Okechukwu Ubani

**A**cross Abia State, one name keeps coming up in conversations: Governor Alex Otti. Whether it's in homes, markets, churches, offices, or town meetings, people are talking about the man they believe is leading Abia in a new and better direction. To many, he is more than just a governor they see him as someone sent by God to bring true change and hope to a state that has long waited for real progress.

In just over two years in office, Governor Otti has made a big impact. His government has taken bold steps to rebuild important areas of the state. Roads are being repaired, schools are being built or renovated, hospitals are getting upgrades, and public services are working better. His work in managing the state's finances has brought back honesty, order, and trust in government something many people had given up on.

For the first time in

many years, the people of Abia feel the presence of government in their daily lives. Markets are cleaner and more organized. Roads that were once dangerous are now smooth and safe. Salaries and pensions are being paid on time, every 28th of each month. These are not just promises people can see and feel the results.

This growing support for Governor Otti got even stronger when Rt. Hon. Ude Oko-Chukwu, a former Deputy Governor of Abia State, who left the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and joined the Labour Party. He made it clear that Otti's excellent leadership was the reason for his decision.

"This is not just politics," Oko-Chukwu said. "It's about standing with a leader who is actually doing the work. I've seen the changes myself not just in the state capital, but in my own community. Roads are being fixed, schools are coming back to life, and people are starting to have

**This growing support for Governor Otti got even stronger when Rt. Hon. Ude Oko-Chukwu, a former Deputy Governor of Abia State, who left the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and joined the Labour Party.**

hope again."

His defection is more than just a political move it shows how the people are thinking. Across Abia, people want results, not empty campaign promises. They are tired of leaders who only show up during elections and disappear afterward. But Governor Otti has stayed, and he is 100 percent in charge and delivering results.

From traders in Aba to farmers in Bende, Ukwu, Arochuku, and all parts of the state, the message is the

same: "Otti is working. Otti is making a difference. Thank God for Dr. Alex Otti." Unlike past governments that left many projects unfinished, this administration is focused on completing projects and making sure people benefit from them.

More than just development, Governor Otti's leadership style has brought a new sense of pride to the people of Abia. Citizens now feel proud of their state. Abia is being noticed for the right reasons. Investors are beginning to

pay attention. Young people are being given opportunities. And most importantly, the people feel seen, heard, and respected.

More politicians and everyday citizens are joining the Labour Party. It's clear that something special is happening in Abia not with protests or noise, but through quiet, steady progress. A peaceful revolution is taking place, powered by real results and growing public trust.

One defection, one project, one life at a time Governor Alex Otti is changing Abia. What started as hope during his election has grown into a strong movement built on visible achievements and the people's renewed confidence.

With every road completed, every hospital rebuilt, every school improved, and every worker paid on time, his administration is proving that good governance is real and it is happening in Abia

today. Governor Otti is not only fixing broken systems and infrastructure; he is also rebuilding the broken relationship between the government and the people a relationship damaged by years of failure and empty promises.

Under his leadership, Abians are rediscovering their pride. Communities that were once forgotten are now being remembered. Civil servants, pensioners, market women, students, and artisans are all beginning to feel the impact of a government that truly cares.

Abia is no longer just a state that works it is becoming a land of possibilities. A place where dreams are not only imagined but pursued. A place where roads lead to opportunity, schools prepare the future, and every citizen has a chance to thrive.

Indeed, with Governor Alex Otti leading and the people fully behind him, Abia is not just changing Abia is rising.

## Wisdom for Living

With  
Ezewuru Adaeze Mary

**E**very human deserves independence in every facet, including finances. It is imperative therefore to know and understand differences between assets (what make rich by generating money) and liabilities (what makes poor).

Life is govern by laws and must be lived as such to have the best of it; among many here are few principles of financial independence:

1. Do not work for money:

Rich don't work for money. If you work for money, your mind will start thinking like an employee, but if you start thinking differently like a rich man, you will see things differently. Rich works on their asset column, every dollar in their asset column is their hard-working employee.

2. Tame your emotions: many lives are at the mercies of fear and greed, which keep them perpetually in servitude of hardwork. Hard workers are not the richest but strategic workers.

Learn wisdom, overcome fear of failure and uncertain of what tomorrow might bring.

Have your plan, be focus while executing them, do not allow greed for more money cloud your sense of reasoning or make you go against good values and principles,

Again, most of people have the greed to get rich quickly. Yes, many become rich overnight, but they have no financial education. So educate yourself and don't be greedy or fearful.

3. Acquire assets:

Do not buy liabilities on your way to financial freedom. People buy liabilities and think these are assets, but they are not. Many people buy luxuries first, like big cars, heavy bikes, or big houses to live in. But the rich buy assets and their assets buy luxuries. The rich buy houses and rent them, and they pay them for their Lamborghini. The poor or middle class buy luxuries first, and the rich buy luxuries last.

4. Remember the KISS principle:

KISS stands for keeping it simple, and stupid. Do not overload your mind when starting your journey to financial freedom. Things are simple, keep them simple. The simple

thing to remember is assets put money in pocket and liabilities take money out of pocket. Always buy assets so they put money into your pocket.

5. Know the difference between assets and liabilities:

Assets are anything that puts money in your pocket, like stocks, bonds, real estate, mutual funds, rental properties, etc. Liabilities are anything that pulls money out of your pocket, like your house, your car, debt, etc. People think their home is their biggest asset, but it is not. A house is an asset when it generates money like when you rent a house, it generates money, and when your life in that house becomes a liability.

6. Don't be a financial illiterate:

A person can be highly educated and successful in his profession, but financially illiterate. Financial education is very important for every individual. Our schools and colleges did not teach us financial education. Many financial problems arise as a result of a lack of financial education. Start learning financial education and I suggest

you read the book "Rich Dad, Poor Dad" by Robert Kiyosaki

7. Increase your Wealth:

Wealth is defined as a person's ability to survive for a certain number of days in the future, or how long they could survive if they stopped working today. Consider your wealth and whether you would survive if you stopped working today for a year.

8. Mind your own business:

If you have a job, keep your job and start a part-time business and work it. Use the time that you spend on your iPhone, parties, or any other activity, to build your business. Never leave your job until you build your own business. Don't struggle all of your life for someone else. Start your own business and grow your business.

9. Train your mind:

Your biggest asset is your mind. Many individuals watch opportunities with their eyes, but if you train your mind, you can see opportunities with your mind. If you train your mind well, it can create

enormous wealth.

10. Learn technical skills:

Your financial IQ will be raised by learning these four technical skills:

- Accounting: which is defined as the ability to read numbers. If you want to build an empire, then this is an essential skill. By learning this skill, you will be able to understand the strength and weaknesses of a business.

- Investing: It is the science of making money. Or better put making more money.

Markets: It is the science of supply and demand. Have understanding of market and market places to flourish financially.

The Law: A person who has knowledge of the law of tax advantages and corporations can get rich faster than others.

11. Find opportunities that everyone else missed:

"Great opportunities are not seen with your eyes. They are seen with your mind."

You can see many more opportunities with your mind than many people miss with their eyes. It is not rocket science, you just

need to train your mind.

12. Learn to manage risk:

Investment is not risky, not knowing the investment is risky. If you want to reduce the risk, then increase your knowledge. This knowledge will not come by going to college, it will come by reading books or sitting with people who know the investment.

13. Learn management: The main management skills are:

- Management of cash flow

- Management of system

- Management of people

- Sales and marketing are the most essential skills.

The ability to sell and the ability to communicate with another human being, be it a customer, employee, fiancé, friend, or child, is a basic skill of personal success.

14. Manage fear:

"Failure inspires winners. Failure defeats losers."

Everyone has a fear of losing money.

Learn and Grow!

## Increasing Your Wealth: Different Between Assets and Liabilities



## News

# NIPSS Selects Aba As Hub For South-East Industrial Development

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

**T**he National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) has unveiled plans to drive President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's mandate on industrial development in the South-East, selecting Aba, Abia State, as the hub for the initiative.

The Institute's Chairman and former Senate President, Senator Ken Nnamani, and its Director-General, Prof Ayo Omotayo, disclosed this during a courtesy call on Governor Alex Otti, at his residence in Nvosi, Isiala Ngwa South Local Government Area.

Nnamani, commended Governor Otti for what he described as good governance in Abia, stressing that the decision to situate the hub in the state was well deserved.

Contributing, Omotayo explained that the choice of Aba was evidence-based and reflected the South-East's long-standing reputation for innovation, trade and industry.

"Mr. President believes that

a whole lot of potentials exist in all the six geographical regions, and that we must unlock those potentials.

"We found that for trade and industry, out of the six geographical zones, the most talents exist more in the South-East.

"Without doubt, the South-East has the natural talent for factories, for innovation, for buildings, and so on. So, we chose the South-East as the best hub for local industrial development, local industrial revitalisation of what it used to do. After the South-East was chosen, we broke them down into each of the states.

"At the National Institute, we don't put emotions into things. It's based on the data and we found that Abia is the hub for local inventions, local innovations, and an area where we can easily take out local content", Prof Omotayo stated.

In his response,

Governor Otti expressed appreciation to NIPSS for resisting pressure from other quarters and choosing Aba and noted that the decision was in line with the ongoing economic transformation of the state.

"I want to also thank you for considering Aba and resisting the pressure from others. I want to assure you that the decision you took is the right decision.

"I can assure you that this one fits perfectly into what we are quietly doing here. You may not have known that we just set up an Export Growth Lab in Abia", the governor said.

He assured the Institute of his administration's support in implementing President Tinubu's industrialization mandate and directed his Principal Secretary and Chief Strategy Officer to liaise with NIPSS to provide all necessary assistance.

Governor Otti who

highlighted Abia's industrial capacity, disclosed that the Ariaria International Market alone hosts about 60,000 shoemakers, while the state has also restructured the management of the Enyimba Shoe and Garment Factories.

"The state has also taken active interest in the management of Enyimba Shoe and Garment Factories. So they appointed new management who are funding it very well.

"And NIPSS, you may also want to take interest. Just see what we are doing there. It's still early days, but I'm sure you'll be happy.

"Our predecessors handed it over to us, but the structure and the management was very faulty. So we spent over a year trying to untie some of the roadblocks, and then I think we have gotten it off the ground now", the governor explained.

# Aba Power Pledges End to Estimated Billing, Rolls Out Mass Metering

By Nwokoma Blessing

**A**ba Power Limited (APL) has assured electricity consumers that the era of estimated billing will soon be over as the company begins a massive rollout of prepaid meters across Aba and neighboring communities.

The assurance was given during a customer interactive forum held at Aba, where officials of the company engaged customers on challenges in the power sector, outlined ongoing reforms, and unveiled innovations designed to improve service delivery.

Head of the Commercial Department, Engr. Emeka Victor Ngwoke, said the problem of estimated billing is a nationwide challenge affecting all distribution companies (DisCos), but stressed that APL has taken it upon itself to meter every customer.

He explained that the metering exercise will be carried out feeder by feeder to ensure thoroughness, adding that more than 39,000 meters have already been installed, while over 100,000 additional units are expected in the coming months.

Ngwoke also noted that electricity tariffs in Aba remain relatively low compared with global benchmarks. According to him, tariff adjustments fall strictly under the jurisdiction of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC).

He, however, pointed out that many customers still hold the mindset that power should be cheap or free, which fuels resistance to payment.

Speaking on dispute resolution, Barr. Charles Tooti of APL's Customer Complaints Unit (CCU) explained that the unit is well equipped to handle grievances in line with the Customer Protection Regulations Act 2023.

He outlined the steps for redress to include: Lodging complaints directly with the CCU through letters, emails, or personal visits; Escalating unresolved issues to the Managing Director of APL; Reporting to NERC Forum Officers; and as a last resort, seeking justice in a competent court of law among others.

"Regulations may not favour everybody equally, but the important thing is that every customer has access to justice," Tooti said.

For operational convenience, Engr. Ekwueme introduced a new mobile application, "Nkeanyi," now available on the Google Play Store. The app enables customers to monitor and regulate their meters, make payments, and transact seamlessly with APL from the comfort of their homes.

During the forum, participants voiced a range of concerns bordering on metering, tariffs, and adaptation to new innovations in the electricity sector.

Mr. Omenihu Michael, a resident of World Bank Estate, questioned how property owners could recover funds already spent on meter procurement. Similarly, Mr. Odoemelam Enyinna expressed worries about cases of meter bypassing as well as what he described as the burden of high tariffs on consumers.

From Umuode Village, Mr. Njoku Leonard complained about the malfunctioning of one of two meters installed in his compound, stressing the need for prompt rectification.

On his part, Mr. Obioma Chinemerem lamented the loss of revenue and underscored the challenges customers encounter while trying to adapt to new innovations introduced in the sector.

Responding, APL officials assured customers that their concerns would be addressed promptly, while reaffirming the company's commitment to transparency, accountability, and improved power supply.

Mr. Edise Ekong, Brand and Communications Manager of Geometric Power, said the engagement was designed to feel the pulse of customers, enlighten them on regulatory policies, and take feedback back to the drawing board for service improvement.

"We want customers to see APL not just as a service provider but as a partner committed to fairness and accountability," he said.



Gov Alex Otti of Abia State (c), National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Chairman and former Senate President, Sen. Ken Nnamani (5th R), Abia SSG, Prof Kenneth Kanu (4th R), DG, NIPSS, Prof Ayo Omotayo (5th L) and others, during a courtesy call on Gov. Alex Otti, at his Nvosi, Isiala Ngwa South LGA home.

# Obidient Movement Begins PVC Campaign

By Kelechi EmeOgidi

**T**he Obidient Movement in Abia State has called on Nigerians, especially those unhappy with the 2023 presidential election, to move forward and get more involved in the democratic process.

At a press conference held in Umuahia, the State Coordinator, Chukwuebuka Ezennaka, urged people not to give up on voting. He warned against selling or throwing away Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) out of frustration.

He said such actions could give room for corrupt politicians to take over the system without challenge.

"Boycotting the electoral process or selling your PVC is

not a protest, it's surrender", Ezennaka said. When citizens disengage, enemies of democracy take over. That's what we must prevent.

To encourage more people to register and vote, the movement has launched a new campaign called "Go Get Your PVC."

Ezennaka said the campaign is meant to educate people on the importance of registering to vote, collecting their PVCs, and using their votes wisely ahead of the 2027 elections.

He advised those who didn't register in 2023 to take part in the ongoing Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) being organized by the

Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). He also encouraged voters to transfer their polling units if they have moved to a new area.

"We are not just telling people to register. We want them to understand how to use their votes to bring real change", Ezennaka said.

He said that in 2023, Abia State had 2,120,808 registered voters, with 91.9% collecting their PVCs. Now, the movement is aiming higher.

Their goal is to increase the number of registered voters in Abia to four million before the 2027 elections.

Ezennaka also spoke about the Labour Party's

presidential candidate in 2023, Peter Obi. He said the movement still supports him and believes he remains committed to "resetting Nigeria."

"Peter Obi is not done. We believe he will do even better in 2027 with more voter awareness and participation", he said.

The Obidient Movement also plans to hold town hall meetings, reach out to the youth, and run digital campaigns to fight fake news and rebuild public trust in the election system.

As the voter registration exercise continues, the group is urging all Nigerians to get involved and make sure their votes count.



Abia State Government  
Ministry of Power and Public Utilities

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF A  
SUSTAINABLE SOLAR CARPORT SOLUTION FOR MEGA EV-BUS  
TERMINALS IN ABIA STATE

RFP REFERENCE NO: MPPU/AD/574/2

## INTRODUCTION

The **Abia State Government (ABSG)** through the **Ministry of Power and Public Utilities (MPPU)** invites proposals from interested Bidders for the Design, Engineering, Procurement, Construction, and Commissioning of a scalable sustainable renewable energy carport solution including provision of training and maintenance services for EV Bus Charging Terminals in Abia State.

ABSG is committed to energy security, sustainability and reducing its carbon footprint while meeting its energy demands. In pursuit of these objectives and in response to its energy requirements, the state government has procured forty (40) EV buses with twenty (20) chargers for bus terminals located at Umuahia and Aba Bus terminals in Abia State as follows:

LOT No.	LOCATION	EST. NUMBER OF BUSES	CHARGER TYPES	EST. NO OF CHARGERS
1	Umuahia	16	360KW dual-gun DC all-in-one machines	5
			240KW dual-gun DC all-in-one machines	5
2	Aba	24	360KW dual-gun DC all-in-one machines	5
			240KW dual-gun DC all-in-one machines	5

The ministry of Power and Public Utilities has formulated a strategic initiative to implement a scalable **1.5 -Megawatt (MW)** Solar Energy Solution with an **Energy Storage System above 2-Megawatt Hour (MWh)** per bus terminals. This initiative aims to produce sustainable and environmentally friendly energy for the terminals, thereby mitigating their reliance on conventional / public power sources and reducing its carbon emissions.

ABSG's target is to move as quickly as practicable possible to identify, through this RFP, the most qualified bidder that: (1) meets the needs of the government; (2) demonstrates a thorough understanding of current or pending solar energy policies, legislation, and/or regulation (3) understands the site location's regulations / requirements; and (4) can demonstrate successful implementation of comparably sized projects within Nigeria.

Interested companies should submit hardcopies and /or electronic file of their proposals to the Planning, Research and Statistics office of Ministry of Power and Public Utilities, by September 12, 2025 @12h:00 mid day.

Hardcopies of proposals are to be deposited at the Planning, Research and Statistics office of Ministry of Power and Public Utilities, No1 Isiama Afara road, Umuahia and electronic file via email: [projects.mppu@abiastate.gov.ng](mailto:projects.mppu@abiastate.gov.ng) or saved on flash USB with password shall be submitted.

## PROJECT SCOPE

This project encompasses the design, construction, and commissioning of the 1.5 Megawatt Solar Energy Solution including an Energy Storage System above 2MWh, emphasising its adaptability for future expansion. The following are key scope of supply to be covered:

### Site Assessment and Design:

- Conduct a thorough site assessment to determine the optimal location for the solar power solution, considering factors such as solar radiation, shading, topography, and available land.
- Develop a detailed engineering design for the initial 1.5-Megawatt Solar Energy Solution with Energy Storage, including the layout of solar panels, mounting structures, inverters, transformers, and other necessary equipment.

### Procurement and Construction:

- Procure high-quality solar panels, inverters, energy storage and management system, mounting structures, and other necessary equipment from reputable suppliers, considering the scalability requirements for future expansion. including site preparation, installation of the complete solar panels and mounting structures, electrical wiring, commissioning and connection to the grid.

### Electrical Infrastructure:

- Design and install the necessary electrical infrastructure, including transformers, inverters, energy storage systems, switchgear, and interconnection equipment with future scalability capacity.

### Operations, Monitoring and Maintenance:

- Install a comprehensive monitoring system to track the performance of the solar energy system, including energy production, system efficiency, and any potential issues.
- Develop a maintenance plan to regularly inspect and maintain the solar panels, inverters, and other equipment to ensure optimal performance and longevity.
- Provide training to MPPU staff on the operation and maintenance of the solar farm.

## PREQUALIFICATION AND MODE OF SUBMISSION

### SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

All proposal must be submitted to department of Planning, Research and Statistics of Ministry of Power and Public Utilities Umuahia, Abia State by **September 12, 2025 @12h:00 mid-day**.

Proposals submitted after the specified deadline, will not be taken into consideration.

### PRE QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

1. All interested companies must submit hardcopies to Ministry of Power and Public Utilities No 1 Isiama Afara Road Umuahia, Abia State - Nigeria and / or Electronic file via email: [projects.mppu@abiastate.gov.ng](mailto:projects.mppu@abiastate.gov.ng) or saved on USB with password of their proposals.
2. Evidence of tax payment for 3 years or tax clearance certificate.
3. Evidence of registration with CAC Evidence of Registration with Abia State Government via the Due Process Office.
4. Verifiable evidence of successful implementation of standalone Solar Mini-Grid Project of capacity between 1MW – 3MW in Nigeria
5. Evidence of Financial Capacity to execute this project (3 years financial statements).
6. Evidence of appropriate insurance coverage for the project, including liability and performance bonds.
7. Bidders must submit the company's Health, Safety and Environment Plan.
8. Proof of relationship with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) or technical partners.
9. Letter of Recommendation from the Bank

Yours faithfully,



Engr Ikechukwu Monday  
Hon. Commissioner for Power and Public Utilities





**Abia State Government**  
Ministry of Power and Public Utilities

MPPU/AD/574/3

4 September 2025

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Abia State Government hereby through the Ministry of Power and Public Utilities under the supervision of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASSA) and the auspices of Abia Integrated WASH Accelerated Program (AIWAP) is inviting qualified and experienced Facilities Management Companies to submit Expression of Interest to operate, maintain and manage public WASH facilities in Aba (Lots I & II) and Umuahia (Lots III & IV).

As part of the efforts towards the realization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #6 and Zero Open Defecation in Abia State, The Abia State Government through the Ministry of Power and Public Utilities launched the Abia Integrated WASH Accelerated Program (AIWAP). AIWAP involves the construction, operation and maintenance of modern WASH facilities powered by Solar Energy across the state (See Fig 1.).

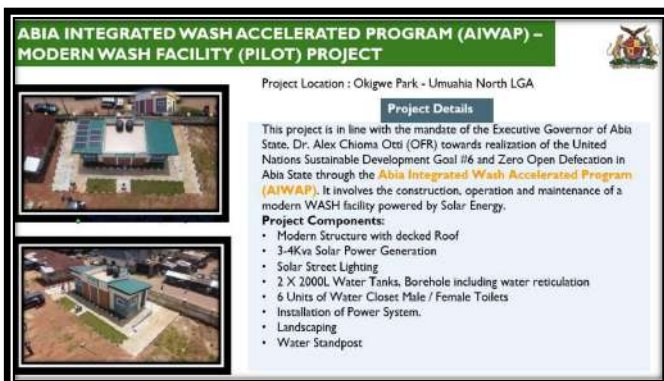


Fig.1: Pilot WASH Facilities

The successfully selected companies will be responsible for ensuring the cleanliness, safety and overall user experience of the facility.

**SCOPE OF WORK**

- ❖ Operate and maintain the public WASH facility.
- ❖ Ensure cleanliness and good hygiene practices
- ❖ Maintain high Health, Safety and Environmental Standards
- ❖ Manage and train staff
- ❖ Collect and manage revenue
- ❖ Perform routine maintenance and repairs.
- ❖ Implement user feedback mechanism.

**REQUIREMENTS**

- ❖ Proven experience in facilities management.
- ❖ Strong track record of maintaining high standards of cleanliness and customer service
- ❖ Ability to manage and train staff.
- ❖ Strong Financial stability and capability to invest in facility improvements.

**SUBMISSION**

Interested companies should submit the following:

- ❖ Expression of Interest, indicating the **Lot**
- ❖ Company profile showing relevant experience and references
- ❖ Business plan covering this project including proposed management plan
- ❖ Commercial & Financial Projections that include cash flow for the next 10 years. The financial projections should be on spreadsheets
- ❖ Proof of Company registration with CAC & Abia State Government
- ❖ Tax Clearance Certificate for the last 3 years

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

- ❖ Experience, Expertise and References (40%)
- ❖ Proposed Management plan (30%)
- ❖ Commercial and Financial Plan (20%)
- ❖ Relevant registration with Government Authorities (10%)

**TIMELINE**

Interested companies are expected to submit both hard copies and digital copies of their Expression of Interest to :

The Monitoring and Evaluation Unit  
Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Office  
15 Library Avenue  
Ministry Power and Public Utilities  
Umuahia  
Email: [projects.mppu@abiastate.gov.ng](mailto:projects.mppu@abiastate.gov.ng)

on or before 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025 while evaluations and short listing will be one week after close of submission date.

For further information and clarification, please send an email to [projects.mppu@abiastate.gov.ng](mailto:projects.mppu@abiastate.gov.ng)

Kind regards,

**Engr. Ikechukwu Monday**  
Honourable Commissioner

## News

### August Meeting: Gov's wife advises women to build strong families for better future

By Chibumma Ikeokwu

**T**he wife of Abia State Governor, Mrs. Priscilla Otti, has described the August Meeting as a vital forum for Igbo women to come together, deliberate on issues affecting their lives and communities, promote peace and provide transformative leadership at the grassroots level.

She stated this at the women August Conference, held at Umueleghele community school, IsialaNgwa South Local Government Area. The theme for this celebration was, "Abia Women United in Strength: Empowered for purpose".

A vibrant display of culture, including traditional performances, a march past, dances and songs, marked the 2025 edition of this conference.

Mrs. Otti commended the organizers for sustaining the annual tradition and urged women to remain united, support one another, and continue building strong families for a better future.

As part of her empowerment initiative, she distributed bags of rice and fertilizers to the women, encouraging them to engage in agriculture and entrepreneurship. She emphasized the importance of women's contribution to the State's economy, assuring them that the administration of Governor Alex Otti remains committed to policies that empower women to make meaningful impacts both in Abia and beyond.

"Pursue leadership roles, live with purpose, and engage in activities that promote peace and unity.

Together, we can build a better Abia," she said.

In her address, Mrs. Nene Nwaogwugwu, wife of the Chairman of IsialaNgwa South LGA, described the conference theme as a powerful reminder of the strength, purpose, and nurturing roles women are divinely called to fulfill.

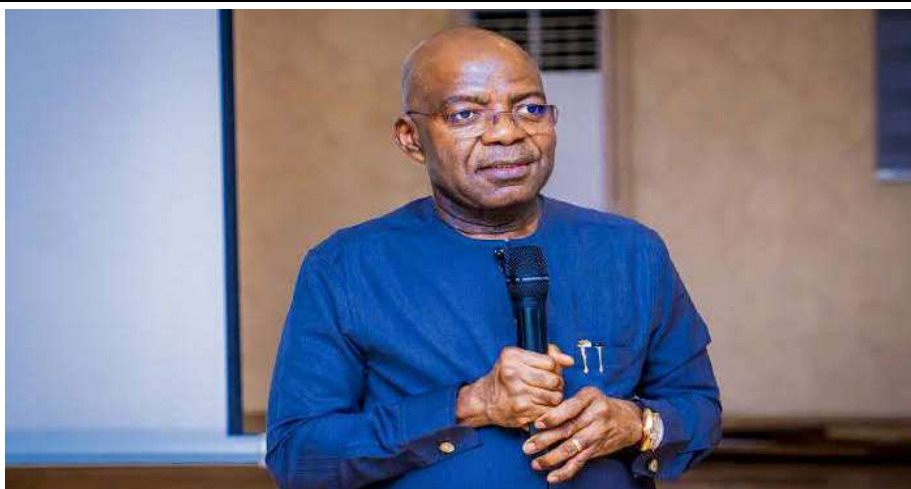
She encouraged the women to shun unhealthy rivalry and division, and instead embrace collaboration, mentorship, and community-driven support systems. "Our dreams are most achievable when we work together," she affirmed.

The Mayor of IsialaNgwa South LGA, Hon. Nnadozie Nwaogwugwu, also applauded the ongoing transformation in the State under Governor Otti's leadership. He reiterated his administration's commitment to supporting women at the grassroots as partners in progress.

Meanwhile, during the conference, Mrs. Onyinyechi Joy Nwosu of Vivacious Development Initiative spoke on the critical role of women in ending gender-based violence and child abuse.

In a separate session, Mrs. Amara Okafor, a pediatrician from the Federal Medical Centre, Umuahia, highlighted the importance of vaccinating children against measles and rubella.

She urged mothers to ensure their children receive all necessary immunizations to prevent avoidable health complications.



Gov. Alex Otti.

### Abia Flags Off AUDA-NEPAD Small Holder Farmers Initiative

By Charles Ogbonnaya

**T**he Abia State Government has officially launched the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) Smallholder Farmers Initiative, reaffirming its commitment to repositioning agriculture as a driver of economic growth, employment, and food security.

The flag-off ceremony, held at the JAAC Building in Umuahia, places Abia among seven pilot states selected to implement the continental programme. The initiative will empower smallholder farmers with access to finance, improved inputs, training in climate-smart practices, and structured markets.

Governor Alex Otti, represented by his deputy, Ikchukwu Emetu, described the launch as a bold step toward restoring Abia's place in Nigeria's agricultural map.

"This is more than a project launch; it is a statement of our commitment to make agriculture the engine of growth and prosperity for our people," Otti said.

Under the programme, 17,000 farming households across the 17 local government areas of the state will benefit, beginning with an initial 1,000 farmers in the pilot phase. Beneficiaries will receive training in sustainable farming, support to reduce post-harvest losses, and improved productivity measures.

Encouraging farmers to embrace the opportunity, Otti charged: "Let us demonstrate that Abia's farmers can compete with the best across the continent."

Commissioner for Agriculture, Dr. Cliff Agbaeze, highlighted the

importance of the programme, noting that smallholder farmers account for over 90 percent of Nigeria's agricultural workforce. He praised the Otti administration for reviving the project, which had remained dormant since its national rollout in 2021.

"What we are witnessing today is the result of deliberate and focused leadership. This administration has turned a long-idle initiative into meaningful action," Agbaeze said.

He also acknowledged the efforts of the former National Co-ordinator and CEO of AUDA-NEPAD Nigeria, Princess Gloria Akobundu for securing

Abia's inclusion in the pilot phase.

In his remarks, the National Coordinator and CEO of AUDA-NEPAD Nigeria, Mr. Jabiru Salisu Abdullahi Tsauri Abubakar, expressed his gratitude to Governor Otti for his commitment to the development of every sector of the state's economy. He commended the Governor for positioning the state as one of the first pilot states to participate in the programme.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Mrs. Ijeoma Adanna Agwu; the immediate past National Coordinator/CEO of AUDA-NEPAD Nigeria, Princess Gloria Akubundu; and the

State Project Coordinator, Mrs. Catherine Osondu, stated that the project is designed to enhance the productivity and resilience of smallholder farmers. This will be achieved through the adoption of improved agricultural practices, innovative technologies, increased access to market funding, and other agricultural support initiatives.

The event attracted development partners, agricultural experts, and hundreds of local farmers, many of whom expressed optimism that the initiative would finally address the challenges confronting the sector.

### Poor Waste Disposal In Rivers State: Prof, Residents Call For Urgent Action

From Nzewzor Jane, Port Harcourt

**T**he growing menace of poor waste disposal in Rivers State has raised concerns among experts and residents, who are now calling for urgent intervention. Professor Sydney Obidimma Nzako, a lecturer in Animal and Environmental Biology, has urged the government to embark on a statewide campaign on waste bagging, disposal, and proper environmental practices.

Speaking in an interview with our reporter, Prof. Nzako lamented the activities of scavengers, which he said are undermining the status of Port Harcourt as the "Garden City." He stressed that reorientation of waste pickers and the public is necessary to drive a sustainable waste-to-wealth initiative.

"Somebody bags his refuse, then you scatter it, pick the valuables, and walk away without re-bagging it. You leave it there for the wind to spread around. These scavengers should be arrested and taken to a place where they will be reoriented on how to do things. Even if you must pick from the waste in the name of waste-to-wealth, you cannot practice it at the expense of public health," he said.

Prof. Nzako further warned about the health risks associated with indiscriminate dumping and unpacked refuse across Port Harcourt metropolis. He expressed concern that citizens appear more interested in making social media videos than in

demanding cleaner surroundings.

"The patriotic aspect is missing. People at the roadside just snap and post online instead of raising alarm. When we should be talking about health, the environment is filthy. And by default, everybody is affected because parasites and diseases spread by contact. A man with low health quality cannot claim to be healthy," he added.

Meanwhile, residents across Port Harcourt and its environs have expressed disappointment over the performance of the Rivers State Waste Management Agency (RIWAMA). They say littered waste, foul odour, and the growing number of flies are making life unbearable.

"The level of pollution in Rivers State is becoming alarming. Health, they say, is wealth. But how can we live well in this kind of environment? Rivers State used to be the Garden City, a place of serenity. Now waste is everywhere. It should be a wake-up call for government intervention," a resident said.

Another resident at Oyibo added: "RIWAMA is nothing to write home about. When it rains, it becomes worse. Here in Oyibo, refuse is ignored. It stays for days and weeks, breeding flies, causing bad odour, polluting and defacing the environment."

Both experts and residents are therefore appealing to the government and relevant agencies to act swiftly before the city's waste crisis escalates into a major public health disaster.



Mrs. Priscilla Otti



## News

### Abia Govt Urges Residents To Embrace Upgraded Nenu Specialist Hospital

By Favour Okorie

**T**he Abia State Government has called on residents of Nenu and the wider Obingwa Local Government Area to prioritize their health by utilizing the newly upgraded Nenu Specialist Hospital – an annex of the Abia State University Teaching Hospital (ABSUTH).

Emphasizing the dangers of seeking treatment from unqualified practitioners, the government highlighted the hospital's enhanced facilities and services as a reliable option for quality healthcare in the region.

Speaking during a facility inspection, the Commissioner for Health, Professor Enoch Uche represented by the Chief Medical Director of ABSUTH, Professor Uzoma Nduka – praised the hospital's improved infrastructure. He noted that the facility now features state-of-the-art equipment, including an ECG machine, modern operating theatre, ultrasound unit, and a well-equipped labour ward for expectant mothers – amenities rarely available in rural hospitals.

Professor Uche also confirmed that ABSUTH has met all required accreditation standards, reinforcing its capacity to deliver high-quality medical care.

He commended the Nenu

Community for its support and co-operation in strengthening the partnership with ABSUTH, and urged residents to take full advantage of the upgraded facility to meet their healthcare needs locally.

In a related development, the Mayor of Obingwa LGA, Hon. Maxwell Nwadike, applauded the efforts of the National Chairman of the Forum of Former Deputy Governors of Nigeria, Dr. Chris Akomas, and the Nenu Community for their instrumental roles in establishing the hospital.

Nwadike expressed optimism that the facility would significantly reduce the need for residents to travel outside the LGA for medical attention and attract patients from across the state.

In his remarks, Dr. Akomas, announced plans to install a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine at the hospital, a move, he said, would greatly boost its diagnostic capabilities and further elevate healthcare delivery in the area.

The state government and local leaders reiterated their commitment to expanding healthcare access and urged residents to utilize the Nenu Specialist Hospital as a trusted centre for quality medical services.

### Imo Govt, Keystone Bank Explore Partnership For Sustainable Development

By Blessing Anienwe

**G**overnor Hope Uzodimma of Imo State has hosted the Chairman of Keystone Bank Limited, Lady Ada Chukwudozie, and her executive team during a courtesy visit to the Government House in Owerri. The high-level meeting was aimed at exploring areas of strategic collaboration between the state government and the financial institution.

Discussions during the visit centred on opportunities for partnership in key sectors such as sustainable development, economic growth, financial inclusion, and job creation. The engagement also provided a platform to identify ways in which Keystone Bank can support the state's ongoing efforts to improve livelihoods and enhance infrastructure.

Governor Uzodimma

described the meeting as "productive and forward-looking," noting that his administration remains committed to building strategic alliances that contribute to the broader development goals of Imo State. He emphasized the importance of attracting credible partners who share in the vision of a prosperous, stable, and investment-friendly environment.

According to the governor, the state is witnessing steady progress in areas such as infrastructure, security, and ease of doing business – factors he said are critical in drawing private sector interest. "We are keen on working with reputable institutions like Keystone Bank to deliver transformative projects that

improve livelihoods and drive prosperity for our people," he said.

In her remarks Lady Chukwudozie, commended the developmental strides recorded by the Uzodimma administration, particularly in infrastructure and governance. She expressed Keystone Bank's readiness to align with the state's vision by supporting initiatives that promote inclusive growth and sustainable economic advancement.

She further highlighted the bank's areas of strength, including SME financing, digital banking solutions, and community-based development projects, all of which could play a vital

role in supporting Imo State's economic roadmap.

Both parties expressed optimism about potential collaboration in priority areas such as youth empowerment, entrepreneurship development, financial literacy, and technological innovation. These, they agreed, are critical drivers for achieving long-term, inclusive development in the state.

The visit by Keystone Bank reinforces the growing interest from private institutions in partnering with the Imo State Government under Governor Uzodimma's leadership. It also signals renewed momentum in the administration's drive to create a diversified and resilient economy that delivers real benefits to ndi Imo.



Governor Hope Uzodimma.

### Gregory University Denies Staff Maltreatment, Salary Cut Allegations

By Ekebuisi Precious

**G**regory University, Uburu, has dismissed reports accusing it of staff maltreatment and arbitrary salary cuts, describing the allegations as false and malicious.

In a statement signed by the Registrar, Mr. Vincent Maliki, recently the university said the claims circulated by an online publication were the handiwork of disgruntled individuals bent on damaging the school's

image.

"The claims of inhuman treatment and exploitative policies are not only false but malicious. Gregory University remains committed to the welfare and professional development of its staff," Maliki stated.

He maintained that the institution pays competitive salaries in line with private university standards in Nigeria. According to him, any salary adjustments made were guided by policy and operational realities, not

across-the-board pay cuts.

Maliki also defended the university's biometric attendance and performance monitoring systems, insisting they were introduced to improve accountability and productivity, not to intimidate workers.

Responding to criticisms of the Servcom Unit and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's office, the Registrar suggested the allegations may have come from staff members engaged in

moonlighting, an act he said contravenes university policy.

"Attempts to divert attention from such misconduct through false allegations will not succeed," he added.

The university reassured parents, students, and the public of its commitment to academic excellence and staff welfare, stressing that examinations and academic activities have continued smoothly despite the allegations.

### Ubah Offsets Patients' Bills At FMC Umuahia

By Chinaza Onyema

**A** business man and philanthropist from Ngodo Isuochi in Umunneochi Local Government Area of Abia State, Chief Etomchukwu Ubah, popularly known as Toscana, has offset hospital bills of patients at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Umuahia, as a way of celebrating his birthday.

Rather than hosting a lavish party, Chief Ubah chose to identify with patients weighed down by illness and poverty. He spent over ₦10 million to clear outstanding medical bills, ensuring that many who had been unable to leave the hospital were discharged.

Tears of joy and heartfelt prayers flowed as relieved families walked out of the hospital corridors, describing Toscana's gesture as a miracle at a time of despair.

The Chief Medical Director of FMC, Prof. Azubuike Onyebuchi, who witnessed the discharges, commended the philanthropist for what he called "a rare act in a very long time." He also urged other well-meaning Abians to emulate such generosity.

Speaking with journalists, Chief Ubah explained that his decision was rooted in gratitude to God for his life and success.

"God has been faithful to me, and this birthday is not about me – it's about touching lives. What I have started here will also be extended to hospitals in Isuochi, my hometown, and in Enugu. Charity, like greatness, begins at home," he stated.

Chief Ubah, who holds the traditional title Akuchinyere Mba 1 of Ngodo Ukwu Kingdom, has long been recognized for his philanthropy. His latest gesture has further strengthened his image as a man whose wealth is matched by compassion and a commitment to community service.

## Interview

### 'I Won't Sell Myself Short' — JDS

**F**rom Umuahia-South in Abia State to Nollywood's rising screens, Jameson Munachimso Ehimere Alternatively Known As JDS has walked a journey of resilience, passion, and self-belief. A graduate of Education/English from Abia State University and holder of a Master's degree in Sociology of Education from the University of Port Harcourt, Jameson is more than just an actor—he is a model, a budding real estate player, and a man deeply committed to his craft. Since stepping into Nollywood after his NYSC in 2012, he has navigated setbacks, missed opportunities, and industry challenges, yet his passion for storytelling and performance continues to fuel his drive.

In this interview with our Reporter, Precious Ekebuisi, the fast-rising entertainer shares his story, inspirations, struggles, and hopes for the future.

#### Excerpts:

*Please Can we meet you Sir?*

My name is Jameson Munachimso Ehimere, from Umuahia South in Abia State. I hold a degree in Education/English from Abia State University, Uturu, and a Master's in Sociology of Education from the University of Port Harcourt. I completed my NYSC in 2012. I am into entertainment, modeling, and also work as a middleman in real estate. Over the years, I have attempted reality TV shows like Big Brother and Gulder Ultimate Search, and even though they didn't work out, I decided to focus on developing my craft by myself.

*What inspired you to join the creative industry?*

Talent is something that flows naturally—you shouldn't struggle with it. For me, modeling comes from my appearance, while acting comes from my ability to interpret emotions and personalities. If you can't understand someone's emotions, you can't embody their role.

*At what age did you discover your passion?*

I started young, featuring in school dramas. As I grew older, I realized I had passion for acting, despite my mother's reservations. She wanted me to live a "normal life" with a stable job, but I felt a strong urge for expression. After my NYSC in 2012, I went into Nollywood full-time. I'm still an upcoming actor, but the passion keeps me going.

*What kind of roles do you usually play?*

Directors often tell me my appearance speaks for itself. I get roles as a hitman, secret agent, or a gentleman with a mysterious side you can't easily predict what he's up to.

*How do you prepare yourself mentally and physically for roles?*

I read a lot and hit the gym. Reading expands my mental capacity, while studying people's lifestyles gives me inspiration. Observing how people see life broadens my perspective and helps me embody different characters.

*Can you share one memorable moment on set?*

One that stands out was with veteran actor Livinus Nnochiri. We had been waiting for hours before the cameras rolled. He made a remark: "It seems you don't know there's time for everything. If I leave here, hmmm..." That was supposed to be the most important scene for the production. His words struck me, taught me patience and timing in this industry.

*What do you think sets you apart in the industry?*

My appearance and personality. I believe when you walk into a room, people should form an impression—even before you speak. As an actor, your job is to either prove them right or surprise them. And you must always keep your audience in suspense.

*You are into acting, modeling, and real estate. How do you balance them?*

Balancing isn't

difficult because I am more of a middleman in real estate. Though they don't really complement each other, they diversify my portfolio and create opportunities in different sectors.

*Are you married?*

I'm single.

*Any plans to marry soon?*

Yes, I will get married

you want, then you don't know your value. Most of the jobs I've gotten, I merited them. Yes, such things exist, but if you truly know your worth and your craft, you won't sell yourself short.

*What challenges have you faced, and how did you handle them?*

I've had projects where I worked for weeks without

things aren't favorable, I remind myself not to lose my essence. If you compromise your values, you're no longer true to yourself. Passion sustains me.

*How do you handle pressure and criticism?*

Criticism is helpful; it shows you your weaknesses so you can improve. As for pressure, people will always talk. You can't please everyone; otherwise, you'll end up being fake. Balance is key.

*Which actors do you look up to?*

In Nollywood: Jim Iyke for his unique energy, Ramsey Nouah for his natural delivery, Pete Edochie for his aura and eloquence, and Nkem Owoh as a true Igbo man. Internationally, I admire Keanu Reeves, Sylvester Stallone, and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

*Who is your biggest idol?*

That would be Arnold Schwarzenegger. He has an all-round profile: actor, politician, real estate investor, and former Mr. Universe. Most of his films were box office hits.

*Beyond fame, what impact do you want to make?*

I want to use my platform to support others. Sometimes, at auditions, I got roles I didn't expect because someone singled me out. That made me think of others who may not get such chances. I want to be a voice and a helper for the next generation of talents.

*Where do you see yourself in five to ten years?*

By God's grace, bagging awards like the

AMVCA, signing endorsement deals, and growing both my entertainment career and business ventures.

*Are you currently working on any projects?*

Yes. As a model, I just wrapped up a project awaiting company approval. As an actor, I'm working on short video projects that will soon be released.

*What advice do you have for young people aspiring to join acting or modeling?*

Education is very important. Talent is not enough. Go to school because it gives you an edge and makes you organized. I once avoided signing a bad contract because of my educational background. Education helps you navigate the industry smartly.

*How old are you?*

I'll be 38 this September.

*What else would you like the public to know about you?*

I love God. I am a Christian, and I know why I am one.

*What do you dislike most?*

When people tell me "you can't do something" without giving a reason. If you explain why, I'll accept. But if you don't, I see it as an insult to my intelligence.

*Have you ever worked with an abusive leader or boss?*

Yes, and I believe in calling out such behaviour respectfully. If a leader is abusive, I would draw their attention to it.



Jameson Munachimso Ehimere

soon but I'll leave it at that.

There's a perception that in the entertainment industry, women often "sleep their way to the top," while men with big pockets get roles. What's your take?

There are bad eggs in every industry, not just entertainment. Promiscuity exists in politics, banking, and elsewhere; it only gets more attention in entertainment because the industry is elaborate. My view is this: if you lower yourself because of what

pay. In one case, the movie didn't even make it to the market, and I was only given a token artist fee. Another time in Okija, we spent days on location, but when funds ran out, the production stalled. I wasn't paid and was asked to leave, with promises they never fulfilled. These experiences were frustrating, but I handled them with patience and persistence.

*What has kept you going despite setbacks?*

Passion. Even when



# Sporting Ambassador

**AMBASSADOR**  
With Jacob Joseph



Super Eagles of Nigeria

## Nigeria, S/Africa Clash in World Cup Qualifier

**S**uper Eagles of Nigeria will battle the Bafana Bafana of South Africa in a do-or-die, sink-or-swim, or cruise-or-crash World Cup qualifier on Tuesday after taking on Rwanda last Saturday. The Super Eagles are in a very difficult situation that even victory might not be enough to see them qualify for next year's World Cup.

Nigeria started their campaign on November 16, 2023, at home against Lesotho. After a goalless first half, it was the visitors who opened scoring in the 56th minute through Nkwanazi. Semi Ajayi restored parity 11 minutes later, and the Super Eagles could not get the

winner till the end of the match, thereby dropping two precious points.

Three days later, they travelled to Rwanda to take on the Warriors of Zimbabwe, who were playing their home matches at the Stade Huye in Butare. Once again, the Super Eagles lost two points as Kelechi Iheanacho's 67th-minute goal cancelled out Walter Musona's 26th-minute strike to settle the encounter 1-1.

Nigeria confronted their biggest rival in the group, the Bafana Bafana of South Africa, on June 7, 2024, at the Godswill Akpabio International Stadium. It was a must-win match

for the Super Eagles, but just after 29 minutes, the South Africans scored through Themba Zwane.

Though Fisayo Dele-Bashiru restored parity in the first minute of the second half, Nigeria, for the third consecutive match of the qualifiers, failed to find the winning goal, lost two points, and ended up with only three points from a possible nine.

They confronted Benin Republic three days later. Like the Zimbabweans, the Beninese were playing their home matches away from home at the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Stadium in Abidjan, yet the Nigerians failed to capitalize as they were beaten 2-1.

Nigeria recorded victory on March 21, 2025, when the Super Eagles stormed the Amahoro Stadium in Kigali and defeated the Wasps of Rwanda with Victor Osimhen's brace. This victory was more than three points, as it rekindled hopes among millions of Nigerian fans.

Four days later, the joys were gone. Gloom and sadness took over as Nigeria failed to take all three points against Zimbabwe at the Godswill Akpabio Stadium, drawing the encounter 1-1.

Nigeria's qualification for the 2026 World Cup is no longer in the hands of the Super Eagles. All they must do is win all their remaining matches and hope that other results will go their way.

In other matches in Group C, Zimbabwe will trade tackles with Rwanda as Benin lock horns with Lesotho.

## MANCHESTER DERBY: Wobbling City in Crucial Clash

**A**ction resumes this weekend in the English Premier League after the eventful international break, with the biggest clash set for the Etihad Stadium where Manchester City will host Manchester United.

Both sides have been wobbly this season, winning only a single match out of three respectively. City started the season brightly with a 4-0 thrashing of Wolves but lost their following two matches, 0-2 to Tottenham Hotspur and 1-2 to Brighton. Similarly, United started with a 0-1 loss to Arsenal before drawing 1-1 with Fulham. Their only victory was a narrow 3-2 win over Burnley.

This match is a make-or-break for both clubs, with their managers under intense pressure

Bournemouth will take on Brighton at the Vitality Stadium. Both sides won their last matches and are hoping to sustain the momentum. Bournemouth defeated Tottenham Hotspur by a lone goal, while Brighton shocked Manchester City 2-1. It will be a cracker indeed.

Crystal Palace, who are yet to lose a match this season, will lock horns with newly promoted Sunderland, who have taken all three points against Brentford and West Ham United, while Everton and Aston Villa will lock horns at Hill Dickinson Stadium.

The trio of Alex Iwobi, Calvin Bassey and new signing Samuel Chukwueze will see their Fulham side welcome Leeds United to Craven Cottage as they seek their



to see their side take all three points. This fixture, played last season on December 15, 2024, saw Manchester United defeat their city rivals 2-1, with Bruno Fernandes and Amad Diallo scoring late to overturn Josko Gvardiol's first-half goal.

With both sides already struggling this season, this match is a great opportunity to warm the hearts of their fans and ease the mounting pressure.

In other fixtures, Arsenal will hope to bounce back to winning ways after their lone-goal defeat to Liverpool at Anfield when they host Nottingham Forest, while

first win of the season.

Newcastle United will confront bottom-placed Wolves, who are parading Nigeria's Tolu Arokodare, while West Ham United, basking in the euphoria of their first win of the season after thrashing Nottingham Forest 3-0, will lock horns with Tottenham Hotspur, who will be hoping to return to winning ways after losing 0-1 to Bournemouth.

The Bees, Brentford, will attempt to sting second-placed Chelsea when they clash at the Gtech Community Stadium, while Burnley welcome leaders Liverpool to Turf Moor.



Victor Osimhen  
Nigeria's weapon of mass destruction





## 2025 National Youth Games: Team Abia Dazzle

By Daniel Ogidiolu &  
Joseph Jacob



The "catch-them-young" program in sports by the Dr. Alex Otti-led government of Abia State has started yielding positive results with the dazzling performance of Team Abia at the just-concluded National Youth Games in Asaba, Delta State.

Team Abia, which comprised of 287 athletes, competed in 31 sports including athletics, badminton, volleyball, boxing,

cricket, gymnastics, handball, judo and others.

As at press time, Team Abia has won 12 gold, eight silver and seven bronze medals. They have already surpassed their last year's performance, when they finished 10th with a total of 31 medals comprising seven gold, 12 silver and 12 bronze medals.

In boys' football, Team Abia successfully defended their title after Paul Bassey Offiong's lone strike gave the boys from God's Own State victory over hard-fighting Oyo State. To qualify for the final, the team eliminated Lagos State 2-0. After a goalless

first half, Israel Asuquo and Chibuike Ubani scored to hand Team Abia the final's ticket. In their earlier two matches, they scored five goals and conceded none, defeating Adamawa State 2-0 before thrashing Plateau State 3-0.

Similarly, the female handball

team were head and shoulders above all their opponents as they clinched gold at the expense of the host state despite underhand tactics to swing victory to their opponents. Team Abia won 12-11. The team faced Lagos in the semi-finals and took them to the cleaners 24-12.

Abia State's first medals came from weightlifting, when Vitalis Eze won three gold medals in the 55kg, 76kg and 95kg categories.

In para-table tennis, it was an all-Abia final when David Emeka took on Jaja Celestine, with the former clinching gold as the latter settled for bronze. In the female category, Goodnews Young defeated Raji Aishat Anulowapo of Ogun State to win bronze for Team Abia. David Emeka and Goodnews Young teamed up to win gold in mixed doubles with a 3-1 victory over Ogun State. In the female doubles event, Goodnews Young and Victoria Ikechi won gold after thrashing Imo State 3-0. In the boys' category, Somto David and Jaja Celestine won gold at the expense of Ogun State.

In Poomsae, Chidiebere Prosper Ikechukwu won bronze and paired with Ogechi Elekwa to win bronze in Poomsae Pairing.

Promise Basil won silver in the 43kg para-powerlifting event, while Chinyere settled for silver in table tennis. Nwakobi Miracle dethroned the darts champion from Delta State in boys' singles, while Izuchukwu Emmanuel Chidiebere won bronze. The duo of Nwakobi Miracle and Out Favour won bronze in mixed doubles.

In para-athletics, Glory Mmesoma won gold in the T46/47 event while Samuel Obilor clinched silver.

Kasarahi Chioma gave Abia State a silver medal in high jump, while another silver medal came from female judo.

Oyowumi Ayonide won silver for Team Abia in boxing.

These exploits by Team Abia bear eloquent testimony to the fact that Abia State is heading in the right direction in sports development.

### SUDOKU

Puzzle By: Prince Blessing Lazarus

#### CRAZE MAZE HOOK

		1	7		2	9		
8	7						4	2
				4			9	
6				5		7		9
7				1				3
4		2		8				1
				6				
2	3						1	6
		4	5		3	8		

All you have to do is fill the grid in such away that every 3X3 box and row and column, contains the numbers 1-9.

