

**Gov. Alex Otti @61**  
A Glips of His Profile



Pg.7

**Empathy as a lifestyle:  
The Gov. Otti Example**



Pg.14

**Restoring Public Trust In  
Governance: The Governor  
Otti Example.**

*By Prof. Kenneth Kalu*

Pg.10



# NATIONAL Ambassador

Special Edition N500 VOL. 28 NO.023

“Uplift the people, project the nation”

February 18, 2026

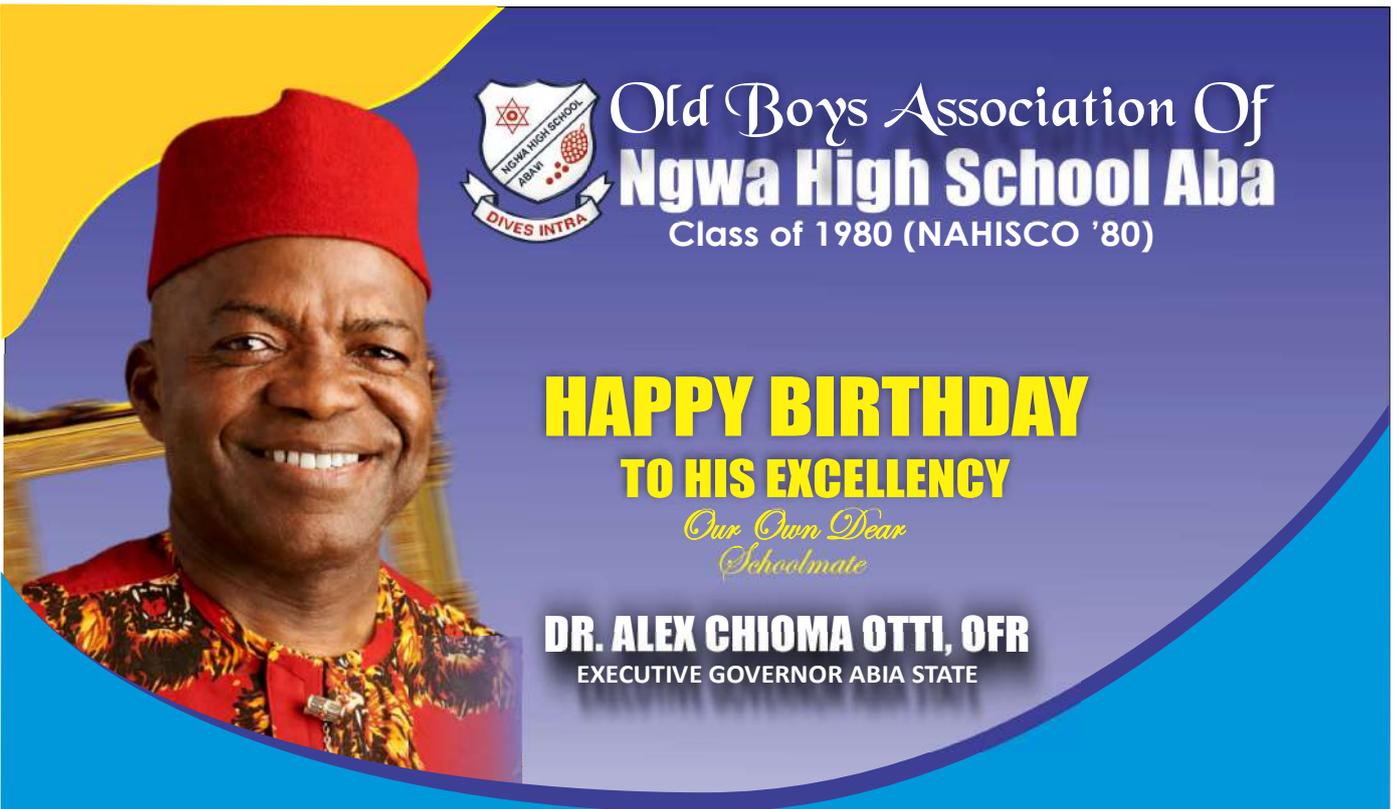
[nationalambassadorng](#) [nationalambassadorng](#) [nationalambassadorng](#) [Nationalambassador](#) [NationalAmb](#) [ireport@nationalambassadorng.com](#) [www.nationalambassadorng.com](#)

**CELEBRATING A**

# TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADER

**@61**

**EDITORIAL: Gov. Otti @ 61: Kudos To A Life Of Excellence**



## A Celebration Of Excellence Service & Enduring Legacy

**A** Distinguished Alumnus of Ngwa High School, Aba, on the joyous occasion of your birthday, February 18, 2026, we, your Schoolmates and brothers from Ngwa High School Aba, Class of 1980 (NAHISCO '80)—join millions of Abians, Nigerians, friends, and admirers across the globe to celebrate a life defined by excellence, discipline, and transformational leadership

Today, we honour not just a Governor, but a Visionary Reformer and Statesman whose remarkable journey—from the classrooms of Ngwa High School Aba, through the pinnacle of banking excellence to the highest level of public service—continues to inspire generations.

### APRIDE TO OUR ALMA MATER

As our proud Schoolmate, we recall with deep sense of pride, dignity and nostalgia the brilliance, discipline and determination that distinguished you even in our formative years at Ngwa High School Aba. Your remarkable achievements today do not come as a surprise for they are true reflections of the character you consistently demonstrated during our school days.

You have remained a shining Ambassador of our Alma Mater whose Motto: "Dives Intra" (Rich Within) drives our everyday activities.

So far so good... affirming that the values of diligence, integrity, and excellence instilled within the walls of Ngwa High School Aba can indeed shape leaders of global relevance, like you.

### FROM BANKING ICON TO TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADER

Before your foray into politics, you distinguished yourself as one of Nigeria's most accomplished and respected banking professionals. Your reputation for integrity, strategic insight, and results-driven leadership earned you national and international acclaim.

Those formative years in the banking sector prepared you for a higher calling—the noble task of public service—a call you have answered with courage, clarity, and uncommon dedication and commitment.

### A NEW DAWN IN ABIA STATE

In less than three years of your administration, Abia State has witnessed remarkable progress in governance, driven by your unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, and sustainable development. Your leadership has restored confidence in public institutions and repositioned Abia as a state of promise, structure and forward momentum.

### Your administration has been marked by:

- Strong commitment to infrastructural renewal,
- Improved fiscal discipline and accountability,
- Renewed investor confidence in the state,
- A people-centered approach to governance,
- A culture of excellence in public service.

### AN ENDURING LEGACY OF IMPACT

Your Excellency, your life stands as a powerful testament to vision, integrity, resilience and service above self.

You have inspired young Nigerians to believe in principled leadership and demonstrated that governance can truly be a tool for societal transformation.

As you celebrate another year of your life, we, your Schoolmates, NAHISCO '80 Class, earnestly pray that God, in His infinite mercy should grant you Many more years of impactful leadership and contributions to God's Own State in particular and Nigeria in general.

Happy Birthday to Our Great Alumnus

*Signed:*

Prof. Dan Okenu (President), Kenneth Maduagwu (Snr. Prefect), Elder Monday Benson (Class Monitor)



# LABOUR PARTY (LP)

**MOTTO: EQUAL OPPORTUNITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE**



**Hurray**  
Our National Leader  
**HE Dr. Alex Chioma OTTI (OFR)**  
Is **61**



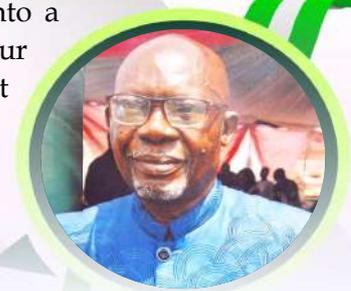
**O**n behalf of the entire members of the Labour Party, Abia State Chapter. we wish to felicitate with our National Leader and The Executive Governor of Abia State, His Excellency Dr Alex Chioma Otti OFR as he turns 61 years old.

Your Excellency Sir, we are grateful for your leadership of our great party which has enable us to retrieve and consolidated the Party away from the wicked hands of the enemy.

We are equally grateful for the transformation of Abia State into a modern Abia. Such transformation under the auspices of the Labour Party has positioned us as a Political Party of choice amongst Nigerian partisans. Once again, a big congratulation for living a most Impactful life.

Signed

**Hon. Sir Emmanuel Nweze Otti**  
Chairman: Labour Party  
Abia State Chapter



# Felicitations



## Goodwill Message

To Our Indefatigable And Indomitable Founder,

**DR. ALEX CHIOMA OTTI (OFR)**



It is with immense joy that we celebrate and commemorate yet another milestone in the life of our Founder and the Executive Governor of Abia State, His Excellency Alex Chioma Otti (OFR).

This natal anniversary presents a fitting opportunity to appreciate your unmatched commitment to delivering the dividends of democracy to the good people of Abia - citizens who for many years prayed and yearned for responsive and people-centered governance.

On behalf of all of us at Abia Arise, we heartily congratulate you and wish you many happy returns of this special day in good health and renewed strength.

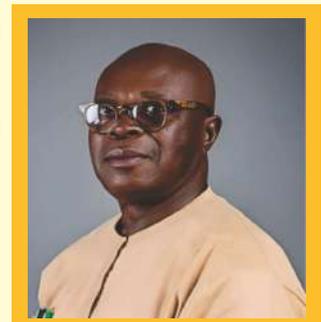
We pray for divine protection, wisdom, guidance, and even greater progress for our dear state, now and in the years ahead.

Once again, congratulations, Your Excellency.

**Dr. Ibeleme Sylvester**  
 General Secretary

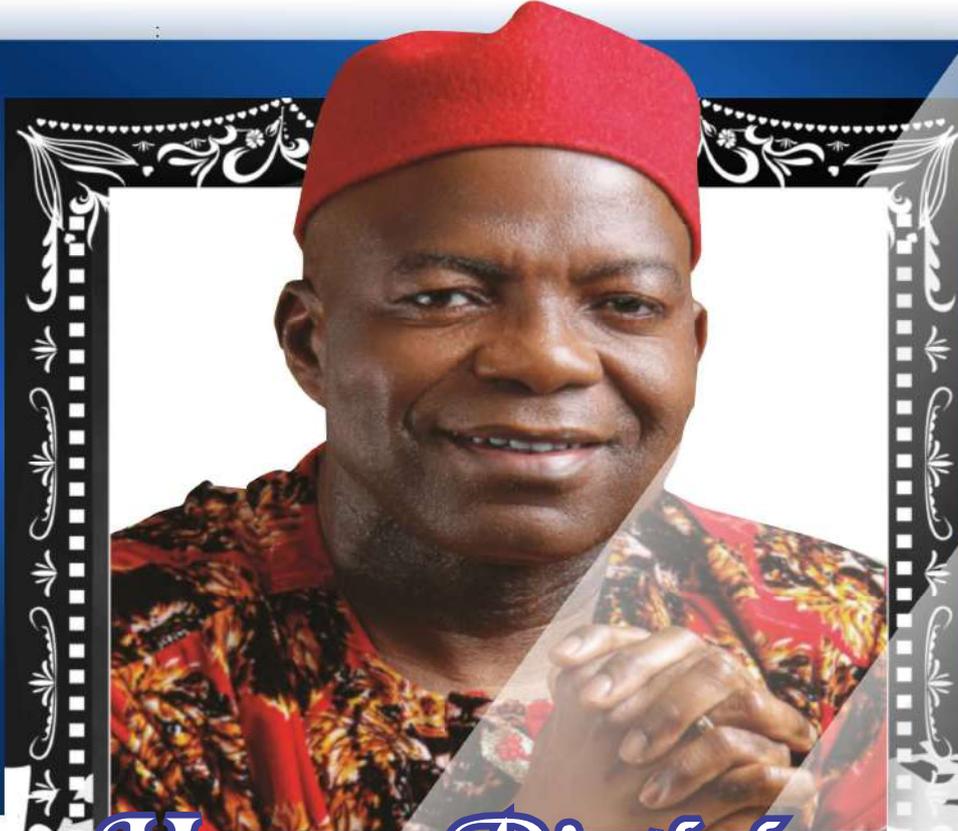
**Signed**

**Mazi Nkem Okoro**  
 Chairman





**Abia State Government**  
Office Of The Special Adviser To The Governor On Political Affaires  
**Government House Umuahia**



**Happy Birthday**

**TO OUR INDEFATIGABLE LEADER**  
**HE Dr. Alex Chioma OTTI (OFR)**  
**EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE**

On behalf of my family and myself, I wish to say a big congratulation to our leader, the Executive Governor of Abia HE Dr. Alex Chioma Otti (OFR) as he turns 61 years.

Your Excellency Sir, your life has been a most impactful and effective one.

As our leader in the struggle to liberate and rebuild Abia into one that all of us can be proud of, I will say, you have done very well.

Your Energy, Brilliance, Patriotism and Uncommon Commitment to the transformation of our State into a modern one are values we cherish.

We are indeed very proud of your achievements.

I pray that God will continue to guide and protect you as you strive to build a modern Abia State.

**Signed**  
**Rt. Hon Iheanacho Obioma**  
Special Adviser to The Governor  
On Political Affairs.



# Editorial

## Gov. Otti @ 61: Kudos To A Life Of Excellence

**H**urray, our Action Governor is now sixty one years.

Born Alex Chioma Otti into the family of Pastor & Mrs Lazarus Otti, his life symbolizes the triumph of hard work, diligence, excellence and a persistent pursuit of perfection.

Right from an early age, this gifted first son of a clergy man worked his way to the pinnacle of the society.

However, his inner strength manifested when he resigned from his plum job as the Managing Director of the Diamond bank to join the murky terrain of partisan politics.

After two trials both in 2015 and 2019, his effort was crowned with victory when he was declared the winner of the 2023 governorship election in Abia State.

Since he mounted the saddle of leadership on May 29th, 2023, the Governor has practically leapfrogged the State from its pre-May 2023 status as the least developed State to its present status as the fasted developing State in Nigeria.

He has by so doing wiped away the tears of a once beleaguered people as well as restored their pride and hope in governance.

In a nutshell, Dr. Alex Otti and his lieutenants are nudging Abia away from its old form into what is now generally regarded as a 'New Abia'.

A new Abia where the Government works for the people.

Being the initiator and pioneer of this 'New Abia', Governor Otti has by so doing, etched his name in Gold as its father.

At 61, His life has indeed been an impactful one.

It is against this background that we join his family and millions of his admirers to wish him a happy 61st Birthday.

We pray for his continued good health and God's grace in all his undertakings in Jesus Name, Amen..

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

## Appreciation Letter To Dr Alex Otti @ 61

**D**ear Dr Alex Otti,

I hope you are in good health and happy as you celebrate your 61st birthday. Congratulations on reaching this important age. It is a great joy to celebrate you and to thank you for the good work you are doing as the Governor of Abia State. The positive changes in our state are clear for everyone to see.

At 61, your life shows strong dedication, hard work, and service to Ndi Abia. The progress in Abia State is visible in many areas. People within and outside the state are talking about the improvements. Today, Abia has become a good example for other states in Nigeria. Things are better than they used to be.

You have shown serious commitment to improving our state. Your leadership, focus, and love for development are making a real difference in the lives of the people. You have restored hope and confidence. Many people now believe that good leadership can truly change a state for the better.

We thank you for bringing relief and happiness to Ndi Abia. Workers now receive their salaries on time. Pensioners are paid without unnecessary delay. Roads are being built and repaired across the local government areas. These efforts have reduced suffering and improved daily life for many families.

At 61, you stand as a strong example of hard work, perseverance, and determination. Your journey encourages young people and leaders to stay focused and serve with honesty and purpose.

Ndi Abia look forward to supporting you for another four years so that the progress and development will continue and become even greater.

Happy 61st Birthday, Dr. Alex Otti. You are truly an inspiration and a blessing to Abia State.

Yours Sincerely,  
By Ifeanyi Ogidi



GM/Editor-in-Chief	Jones Nnanna Ike
Editor	Chukwuemeka Egejuru
News Editor	Okechukwu Ubani
Director, Admin Dept.	Chief Nmerole
Head, Account Dept	Promise Obisike
Head, Operations Dept.	Ihedinachi Okpara
Head, Commercial Dept.	Mary Ehumadu
Head, Library/ Circulation	Cordelia Okafor
Head, ICT	Michael Iheadindu
Head, Proof -reading Desk	Pious Jacob N.
Editorial Consultant	Chike Emelike
ICT Consultant	Prince Blessing Lazarus

## Gov. Alex Otti @61

# A Glimpse Of His Profile

**B**orn - 18th February 1965. Place of Birth, Umuru Umehim in Isiala Ngwa South Local Government Area of Abia State.

**Spouse:** Mrs Priscilla Otti

**Education:** - Ngwa High School Aba and graduated in 1982 with distinction. He pursued a higher education at the University of Port Harcourt and earned a First Class Degree in Economics in 1988.

**Post-Graduate Studies:**

Obtained an MBA from the University of Lagos in 1994 . He furthered his education development programs at Prestigious International Institutions, including Columbia School, Stanford Business School, Wharton Business School (University of Pennsylvania) and an Executive Program and INSEAD in Fontainebeau, France.

**Banking Career:**

Dr. Alex Otti began his banking Career in 1989, with the Nigerian Intercotinental Bank, a subsidiary of Citibank New York, working in the Operations Department.

He subsequently held positions at the Nigerian Intercontinental Bank, Merchant Bank Ltd, Societe Bancaire Nigeria Limited a Subsidiary of Banque SBA Paris and United Bank for Africa UBA, where he oversaw the banks Corporate Banking Sector for the entire South Division, focusing on the Oil and Gas business.

**First Bank of Nigeria Experience:**

In May 2001, Dr. Alex Otti joined First Bank of Nigeria as an Assistant-General Manager, responsible for growing the Energy Sector. He was later promoted to Deputy General Manager, and then Executive Director for the South Directorate, overseeing over 140 branches in the South- South and South-Eastern political zones.

**Diamond Bank:**

In March 2011, Dr. Alex Otti was appointed the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Diamond Bank, leading the bank through a significant transformation. He retired from this position on October 24, 2014 and joined partisan politics.

**Honours and Recognition:**

**Honorary Degrees:**

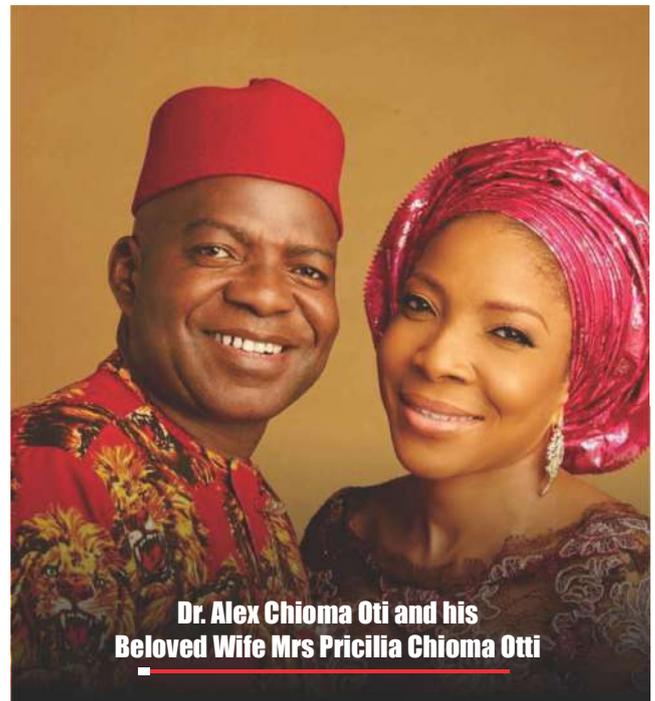
Dr. Alex Otti was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate from Babcock University in 2009, an Honorary Doctor of Science (D.Sc) Degree from the University of Port Harcourt in 2012 and another honorary doctorate from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

He is also an Ugwuaro in Arochukwu Kingdom and the Ekwueme of Abam Onyerubi.

Dr. Otti is married to Mrs Priscilla Chidinma Otti - the First Lady of Abia, and they have three grown-up children.

**Political Career:**

Dr. Otti first contested the governorship election of Abia State in 2015, under the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) and was declared the winner by the Court of Appeal on December 31, 2015. However, the Supreme Court reverse the decision on February 3,



**Dr. Alex Chioma Otti and his Beloved Wife Mrs Priscilla Chioma Otti**



**Dr. Alex Chioma Otti. OFR  
The Executive Governor Of Abia State**

## Gov. Alex Otti @61

2016, affirming the incumbent Okezie Ikpeazu as the Governor.

Dr. Alex Otti again in 2019, contested the same office under the same party, but was declared the second runner-up. Dr. Alex Chioma Otti remained undeterred and continued his political journey. In 2023, he contested the Governorship Election under the Labour Party and had a landslide victory with a total vote of 175,467 against his closest rival, Chief Okey Ahiwe, who came a distant second with 88,529. He was sworn in as the **Executive Governor on May 29, 2023.**

### Governor Otti's vision of politics and Governance:

Governor Alex Otti's vision for Abia State is centered on a comprehensive transformation across key sectors, aiming to position the State as a leading economic and social hub in Nigeria.

### His Strategic Focus :

**Economic Development:** Governor Otti is committed to revitalizing Abia's economy by fostering entrepreneurship and attracting investments. He emphasizes that Abia is an ideal destination for business ventures, highlighting the State's potential for growth and innovation.

### Healthcare Improvement:

A significant aspect of his agenda is the enhancement of healthcare services. The governor has rehabilitated and upgraded 200 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) within the State with intentions to extend these efforts to all 948 PHCs statewide. This initiative aims to provide accessible and quality healthcare to all residents.

### Education Reform:

Governor Otti envisions a functional and globally competitive education system in Abia State. His administration has allocated 35% of the 2025 budget to education, focusing on remodeling schools, recruiting qualified teachers, and enforcing compulsory education laws to ensure every child receives quality education.

### Infrastructure Development:

The Governor is dedicated to reconstructing and transforming Abia's infrastructure. This initiative includes improving roads, transportation networks, and public facilities to enhance the quality of life for residents and attract investors.

### Legal and Justice System Enhancement:

Under his leadership, there has been a focus on modernizing the justice system. This initiative includes the construction of modern court halls across all 17 local government areas, the digitization of legal processes, and the provision of electronic recording devices in the courts to strengthen the criminal justice system.

Through these initiatives, Governor Otti aims to create a prosperous, healthy, and educated Abia State, fostering a conducive environment in economic growth and social well-being.

Governor Alex Otti's vision for politics and governance centers on transforming Abia State into a progressive, efficient, and self-sustaining region. He emphasizes transparency, accountability, and the development of critical sectors such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and industrialization.



I-R: Gov Alex Otti of Abia, Lt. Gen. Azubuike Ihejirika (Rtd), his Wife, Mrs Nnenna Ihejirika, Abia Deputy Gov. Engr. Ikechukwu Emetu, Hon. Amobi Ogah and Deputy Speaker, Abia House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Austin Nmerugini, during the commissioning of the newly reconstructed Omenuko Bridge and the 30-kilometre Ozu Abam-Ndi Okereke -Arochukwu road, which connects Abam to Arochukwu.

Otti is focused on addressing the State's economic challenges by promoting job creation, leveraging the State's natural resources, and attracting both local and foreign investments.

### Key elements of his vision:

- 1. Economic Transformation:** Otti is dedicated to fostering a business-friendly environment to stimulate economic growth, particularly in agriculture, manufacturing, and the services sector.
- 2. Infrastructure Development:** He aims to improve the State's infrastructure by rehabilitating roads, enhancing power supply, and modernizing healthcare and educational facilities.
- 3. Good Governance: Under his leadership,** he is focused on fostering an inclusive, transparent, and accountable government that prioritizes the welfare of its people.
- 4. Security:** Otti acknowledges the importance of security as a



Governor Alex Otti of Abia State exchanging greetings with some school children, during the commissioning of the newly reconstructed Omenuko Bridge

# Gov. Alex Otti @61

foundation for sustainable development and has strengthened security infrastructure across the State. He has been doing alot to empower the youths and women, ensuring that they have opportunities for education, employment, and active participation in governance.

### His Charity Works:

Governor Alex Otti has made significant contributions to philanthropy throughout his career, using his resources and influence to improve the lives of individuals and communities, particularly in Abia State. His philanthropic efforts focus on education, healthcare, empowerment, and community development.

**1. Educational Support:** Dr. Otti has been committed to improving education in Abia State and beyond. He has sponsored scholarships for students, especially those from underprivileged backgrounds, to pursue higher education, He has also funded educational infrastructure development, including the building of schools and provision of learning materials to enhance access to quality education. His Charity organization named **"The Alex Otti Foundation"** has been in the forefront of sponsoring scholarships for needy students.

**2. Healthcare Initiatives:** Gov Otti has worked hard improving healthcare services, providing medical assistance, and supporting hospitals with resources, particularly in rural areas. He has contributed to the funding of medical outreach programs and health campaigns, focusing on preventive healthcare and supporting the sick in need of medical treatment.

**3. Empowerment and Job Creation:** Through his various ventures, including during his tenure as the Group CEO of Diamond Bank, Otti has supported initiatives aimed at job creation and empowering the youth. He has provided financial and mentoring support to young entrepreneurs, helping them to start or grow their businesses.

**4. Community Development:** Gov. Otti has been involved in numerous community development projects, providing funds for infrastructural projects such as the construction of roads, water supply systems, and the development of local markets. He is also passionate about the welfare of the elderly and has supported various programs aimed at providing for the aged and vulnerable in society.

**5. Humanitarian Projects:** As a philanthropist, Gov Otti has been a donor to various humanitarian causes, including supporting disaster victims and people affected by socio-economic challenges. These efforts reflect his deep commitment to improving the living conditions of his fellow citizens and his beliefs in the power of collective prosperity.

### Governor Otti's Christian Lifestyle:

Governor Alex Otti, a member of Seventh-day Adventist Church, is known for his Christian faith, and his lifestyle reflects strong Christian principles. His Christian beliefs have been an integral part of his personal and professional life, shaping his decisions, values, and approach to leadership. Otti has often emphasized the importance of integrity, honesty, and transparency in his life and governance. These values align with Christian teachings on righteousness and the importance of leading by example. His philanthropic work, which focuses on helping the less-privileged, the sick, and vulnerable members of society, is inspired by Christian teachings on love, compassion, and service to others. In his various charitable initiatives, he has demonstrated a commitment to living out the Christian principle of helping those in need

### Church Involvement:

Otti is known to be an active member of the Christian community. He has supported Christian organizations and initiatives aimed at spreading the Gospel and improving lives through faith-based programs.



**Gov. Otti Graduates The Students Of The Abia Leadership Academy Programm**



**Gov. Otti Grants Automatic Employment TO 50 TechRise Graduands**

### Moral Leadership:

As a leader, Otti has consistently advocated for moral leadership, which reflects the teachings of Christ. His commitment to good governance, accountability, and serving the people can be seen as an extension of his Christian duty to serve others selflessly.

### Family And Faith:

His strong family values are also influenced by his Christian faith. Otti is a devoted husband and father, prioritizing family life and faith as the foundation of his personal and public life. His values reflect Christian teachings on the importance of love, respect, and care for one's family. Otti's Christian lifestyle is evident in the way he approaches leadership, his philanthropic efforts, and his commitment to justice and service to others. His faith plays a significant role in guiding his decisions and actions as both a public figure and a private individual.



**Gov. Otti Being welcomed by Pst. Jerry Eze at Streams of Joy International**

**Gov. Alex Otti @61**

# Restoring Public Trust In Governance: The Governor Otti Example

By Prof. Kenneth Kalu - President of The Abia Leadership Academy



Gov. Alex Otti Commissioning 14 roads and 4 fully equipped functional health Project across various LGA's in Abia South and Central Senatorial Zones

**H**istory occasionally presents moments so profound that they compel reflection beyond routine political commentary.

The transformation of Abia State since May 29, 2023 represents such a moment. It is a story that challenges long-held assumptions about governance in Nigeria, and it is a story that reaffirms a timeless truth that leadership, when grounded in vision, competence, and integrity, can fundamentally alter the destiny of a society. The Abia of today bears little resemblance to the Abia of yesterday. For about two decades, Abia State stood as a symbol of squandered potential, institutional decay, and public disillusionment. Public infrastructure crumbled, trust evaporated, and citizens learned to lower expectations. Yet, in a remarkably short span of two and a half years under the administration of His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, Abia has undergone a renaissance that many now describe, without exaggeration, as miraculous. The transformation of Abia did not occur by chance. It is the outcome of deliberate choices, disciplined execution, and an unambiguous break from the past.

For one who has been a close observer of happenings in Abia State during these past decades, I would argue

that perhaps the most consequential achievement of the current administration is not in the roads, bridges, streetlights or other physical infrastructure across the State, important as these are, but in the restoration of public trust in government. In societies long battered by governance failure, cynicism becomes a survival mechanism. Citizens stop believing that the government can work for them, and governance itself becomes transactional rather than

the invisible foundation upon which all physical development now stands. Governor Alex Otti has brought superior intellect into governance and the results have been truly transformational, changing the narrative of a State that was only recently associated with failure.

From 1991 when Abia State was created to the year 2023 when Dr. Alex Otti became the State Governor, the capital city of Umuahia had remained the same with little or no effort by



The Completely Redesigned and Retrofitted Dr. Michael Okpara Auditorium, Umuahia

transformational. In Abia today, that narrative has changed. The renewed confidence of citizens in their government is palpable. Across cities, towns, and rural communities, there is a growing sense that the government now exists to serve the common good. Civil servants, traders, large and small businesses, students and the general public now believe that the government works conscientiously to enhance everyone's welfare. This restoration of trust has become

past administrations to change the city's landscape or to enhance its infrastructure. While other state capitals in the country evolved into modern urban centres, Umuahia's landscape reflected inertia, with narrow roads, no improvement in urban planning, and minimal investment in public spaces. Successive administrations appeared content to manage decline rather than attempt or even imagine renewal. But, in less than three years of Governor Otti's leadership,

Umuahia is wearing a new and significantly improved look. Today, Umuahia is being redefined as a modern capital city worthy of its status. From the expanded multiple-lane roads leading from the Onuimo axis to the Abia Tower, to the expanded Mission Hill Road (now Aguiyi Ironsi Boulevard) leading to the city center, everyone can see that Umuahia, the State Capital, is wearing a dignified new look.

The systematic construction of walkways across the city of Umuahia today has altered the feel and look of the city for good. In addition, the nearly completed modern central bus terminal and newly constructed bus stops reflect not just utility, but dignity, and an insistence that public infrastructure should meet high standards of quality and decency. These choices aptly reveal the State Government's understanding that cities shape behavior, productivity, and civic pride. Little wonder that the people of Abia everywhere have regained their pride and trust in government.

If what is happening in Umuahia today represents renewal, the story of Aba represents resurrection. The transformation of Aba under Governor Otti is a story that cannot be comprehensively discussed in one textbook, and certainly not in a short opinion piece such as this. But what everyone who has been to Aba lately, whether they are visitors or residents; the consensus of opinions is that Aba has regained its pride of place in the Southeast. The roads that had hitherto been abandoned, with many converted to wastebins due to several years of decay and neglect, have all been rebuilt and adorned with solar street lights. Where does one start from to outline the infrastructure renewal in Aba under Governor Alex Otti? Is it the construction of the famous Port Harcourt Road, a major road corridor that once hosted several businesses, but which was abandoned for over two decades, forcing the traders and businesses to relocate to other

cities? Or the construction of several other critical road arteries including Ngwa Road, Ohanku Road, Cameroun Road and several others which had sadly become shameful representations of State failure and neglect? Along the streets of Aba, in the markets, business premises and everywhere one goes, the verdict is the same: what has happened in Aba since May 29, 2023 is nothing but miraculous.

Today, the State Government is not only building roads, drainages, street lights and other critical physical infrastructure projects, but the Government has also gone ahead to create the Greater Aba Development Authority (GADA), reflecting Governor Otti's vision to truly transform Aba to a world class city. Consistent with Governor Otti's vision, GADA has started by revisiting and updating the Aba masterplan - a document that outlines the layout of what the commercial city should look like. In addition to its several initiatives to redesign the city to serve the demands of modern city life, GADA is frontally and successfully confronting the monstrous flooding menace that used to make Aba roads impassable during rainy seasons. By establishing the GADA and giving it the mandate to transform Aba for good, Governor Otti has again affixed his stamp of deep intellect and excellence on Aba. With GADA, the government has institutionalized Aba's renewal. Urban development is no longer treated as a series of isolated projects, but as a coordinated, long-term process guided by an updated master plan. Ordinary "good performers" would have just built roads and other physical infrastructure; and the residents would be very happy. But Governor Otti is not just an ordinary good performer. His antecedents from his university days to his very distinguished career in finance show unequivocally that excellence is his hallmark in thought and action.

Continued on the next page

# Gov. Alex Otti @61

*Continued from the previous page*

One of the most damaging legacies of governance in many States in Nigeria has been uneven development. In most cases, the cities are prioritized, and the hinterlands are ignored. In other cases, some regions are favoured, and others forgotten. Governor Otti's administration has made a conscious effort to dismantle this pattern. The creation of the Greater Ohafia Development Authority (GODA) signals a commitment to developing all parts of the State. Towns and communities that were largely ignored in the past are now beneficiaries of road construction, electricity projects, water schemes, sanitation infrastructure, and development control frameworks. This is real inclusion translated into policy and investment, not mere rhetoric. By embedding development within regional institutions, the administration has also ensured that progress is structured, accountable, and sustainable. Like its sister agency in Aba, GODA is working hard to develop a framework for rebuilding Abia North with modern infrastructure across all the Local Government Areas under its jurisdiction.

A defining feature of Governor Otti's administration, something that is uncommon with many political leaders in Nigeria, is the deep thought and sound intellectual engagement that go into his policies and programs. Governor Otti understands the principal place of institutions in driving real and sustainable development. He could have just awarded contracts to build roads across the LGAs, as he is already doing with spectacular speed and efficiency,



**Gov. Otti Commissioning An Electricity Project in Ukwia**

distinguishes transformational leadership from mere performance. It reflects Governor Otti's acknowledgement that roads and other physical infrastructure impress, but institutions endure.

The development authorities in Aba and Ohafia were not created as ad hoc agencies, but through legislation, with clear mandates and accountability structures. This emphasis on institutions may explain, in part, the growing interest of domestic and international investors in Abia State, the steady engagement with multilateral development partners, and the positive assessments from well-informed independent observers. Investors do not respond merely to projects; they respond to predictability, governance capacity, and credible leadership. These are qualities that are evident in the Abia State Government of today.

Friday, February 13, 2026 is another historic day in the administration of Governor Otti. The newly constructed Igwu bridge (popularly called the Omenuko bridge) in OzuAbam, Arochukwu LGA would be commissioned by the Governor on this day. The Omenuko

bridge is to be commissioned alongside the newly built 29-kilometer OzuAbam-NdiOkereAbam-Amuvi Road, constructed by the State Government within a record time. For everyone that had to pass through the area. What is equally poignant about the bridge is that it had been used as an object of political campaign and deceit by several politicians. At some point, and given the way it had been abandoned for decades, myths and tales of superstition emerged, to the effect that the bridge could not be modernized, and must remain a source of danger and pain to the communities. Successive governments and federal lawmakers from the area had used the bridge as an object of campaign to deceive the electorate during every election cycle. Then, came Governor Alex Otti who knew that the narrow bridge posed a huge danger to the people, and he went to construct a brand-new modern bridge. Governor Otti's decisive action on the bridge is a clear declaration that long-standing problems are not unsolvable, and that excuses rooted in superstition, deceit or political convenience have no place in modern governance. Completed in a record 6 months, the new Omenuko bridge, like several other iconic projects across the State, eloquently tells the story of a new Abia. The bridge is to be commissioned alongside the newly built 29-kilometer OzuAbam-NdiOkereAbam-Amuvi Road, constructed by the State Government within a record time.

The State Government understands that physical infrastructure alone does not define development. This is why the administration is also paying

an investment in human capacity. Governor Otti's governance model blends intellect with empathy, and policy with people. His speeches and actions consistently emphasize the public good, fairness, and long-term impact. This combination explains why his leadership style would continue to defy conventional political categorization, especially in a nation where quality leadership is regrettably in short supply.

There are several lessons that can be gleaned from the Alex Otti's miracle in Abia State. First, the Governor's stellar performance in a State that was only recently seen as the worst performing State in Nigeria has confirmed the saying that leadership can make all the difference. Prior to May 2023, Abia State's performance on most measures of development compared to the records of other States, reflected unmitigated failure. However, within the short period of Governor Alex Otti's administration, the story is markedly different, and the only thing that changed from those years of decay and failure is leadership. Second, is the importance of leadership recruitment. Rational people are expected to make informed judgements based on available evidence. The personal and professional profile of Dr. Alex Otti compared to those of his predecessors tells a compelling story of the kind of leaders that the people should recruit. The Abia of today presents incontrovertible evidence that the society is better off if we let our brightest and most decent people to lead us, and not people with questionable records. The miracle in Abia today is a miracle of leadership: leadership that possesses deep intellect, vision, and excellent execution skills.

The transformation of Abia State deserves careful documentation, not as praise, but as scholarship; and not as propaganda, but as evidence. For future leaders, policy thinkers, and citizens alike, Abia's experience offers a powerful reminder that with the right leadership, even the most battered State and institution can rise again. The renaissance of Abia State is, at its core, a triumph of humane, disciplined and visionary leadership. There is no doubt that history will record that a decisive turn was taken, and that a people once resigned to misery and hopelessness experienced phenomenal renewal under the administration of His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR.



**Abia State Specialist Hospital Aba**

but he has gone well ahead to create the structures, the formal institutions that would effectively mainstream these development projects. By creating the GADA and GODA through legislation, and by empowering these Authorities to address the developmental needs of the areas, Governor Otti brings to governance a firm understanding of how to create sustainable development. This approach

bridge is not just a piece of infrastructure, but it represents history. It represents a history of danger, pain, anxiety and neglect. The old narrow bridge across the Igwu river was built during the colonial administration in 1942. The bridge was the major pathway for the communities of Abam, Ohafia, Ihechiowa, Arochukwu, Abiriba and others. Yet, it was so narrow and dangerous, causing fear and anxiety

significant attention to youth development and skills acquisition, support for micro, small, and medium enterprises, and the creation of a business-friendly environment. All these reflect a broader understanding of prosperity, and an acknowledgment that empowerment is not charity, but

## Gov. Alex Otti @61

# Omenuko Bridge: A Symbol Of Abia Renaissance

By Ebere Uzoukwa, PhD

**T**he siege has collapsed, the jinx is forever broken.

With this declaration, Governor Alex Chioma Otti captured not just a moment but the spirit of a remarkable turnaround in Abia State. At a grand reception at Abam High School, Ozu Abam, he commissioned two landmark projects, the new Omenuko Bridge and the 30 kilometre Ozu Abam Arochukwu Road, projects long deemed impossible by successive administrations. What was once a landscape of neglect and despair has now been transformed into a beacon of hope, progress, and tangible results

For more than seventy years, the old Omenuko Bridge over Igwu River stood as a grim symbol of failed governance. Its dilapidated structure claimed lives, disrupted livelihoods, and left communities in perpetual fear. Successive governments promised solutions but delivered only disappointment. Governor Otti's decisive intervention changed that narrative. The new bridge is more than concrete and steel as it testifies accountability, safety, and the restoration of public confidence. Lives have been protected, communities reconnected, and the era of avoidable tragedy ended.

Similarly, the completion of the 30 kilometre road linking Ndi Okereke Abam, Okobo, Amuvi, and Arochukwu has erased the long held notion that there is no easy road to Arochukwu. Farmers watched their produce rot, students navigated dangerous routes, and communities were economically and socially isolated. The new road now facilitates commerce, improves access to education, and

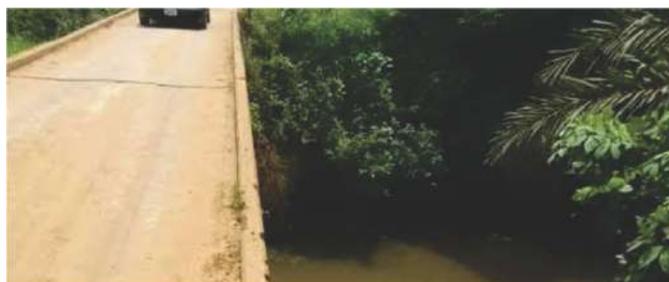


**The New Commissioned Omenuko Bridge**

revitalises community interactions. It shows that when vision meets competence, infrastructure can transform lives and economies.

Governor Otti framed these achievements within a broader struggle to reclaim Abia from years of neglect and stagnation. He recalled that his entry into politics was driven by the collapse of public infrastructure and the frustration it caused. Thirty two months into his administration, results are visible across Abam and the entire Abia State. Over seventy five percent of projects have been delivered, with more underway. From Ndi Ojiugwo to Etiti, from Idima to Ozu, communities once forgotten now bear unmistakable footprints of progress.

The reception at Abam High School reflected deep gratitude and ownership among the people. This was no routine applause; it was an outpouring of appreciation from the people who understand the difference between promises and delivery. Farmers, artisans, professionals, students, and members of the diaspora celebrated not just projects but the restored dignity and hope these structures represent. Beyond symbolism, the projects carry enormous economic significance. Improved roads and bridges reduce costs, expand market access, and attract investment. Rural and urban



**Old Omenuko Bridge**



**A cross section of crowd during the commissioning of the newly constructed Omenuko Bridge and the 30-kilometre Ozu Abam-Ndi Okereke -Arochukwu road, which connects Abam to Arochukwu.**

communities are reconnected, economic opportunities revived, and social mobility strengthened. The change is both practical and psychological as Abians now believe in the possibility of sustained progress. This confidence is already shaping political expectations for 2027. The resolve among the people to not return to "Egypt" underscores a determination to protect these gains. For many, the ongoing transformation proves that leadership defined by vision, competence, and execution delivers results. The next election will be a referendum on continuity, with

widespread anticipation that Governor Otti will secure another mandate to consolidate reforms and sustain development. Breaking the jinx required courage, foresight, and unwavering commitment. Winning the people required consistent performance and tangible outcomes. With the commissioning of the Omenuko Bridge and the 30 kilometre road to Arochukwu, Governor Otti has reshaped Abia's infrastructure and governance narrative, positioning himself as the father of a new Abia, one defined by progress, opportunity, and renewed possibility for all.

## Gov. Alex Otti @61

# The evolving Modern Lifestyle in the New Abia”

By Sir Onyebuchi Ememanka

**Y**esterday, I entered that Bus for the very first time.

Yes, that Abia Electric Bus launched by Governor Alex Otti. The bus took me to Abam, Arochuku LGA for the historic commissioning of the Omenuko Bridge and the 30km OzuAbam - NdiOkereke - Arochuku Road.

I made up my mind to attend the ceremony using my own vehicle. I wanted to drive on that Bridge. I hadn't been to that area in about three years or so. So yesterday, I came out quite early to the Government House to join any available convoy. I had a full tank, so no shaking. I also wanted to charge my phones and power bank at the Government House.

By 8am, I was already at the Government House when I saw Mr Divine Nwankwo, the current HOD of the Government House Press Corps, a very calm and highly professional civil servant. He was Deputy HOD when I was CPS. After exchanging greetings, he told me that the Press will be going to the event with one of the electric buses.

Electric bus? You mean it? I hope there will be space for me? I am here with my own car.

HaaaaOga! Space for you? Former CPS? DG?

Oga, biko o! See me o!

Ok, so let me quickly charge my phone and power bank before the bus gets here.

No Sir. You don't need to charge your phone anywhere. The bus has points for charging. You can charge inside the bus as we move.

What? How? Divine has come again. He is a well trained Information Officer and he had worked under me before. The guy can sell market well.

Yes Sir. Every seat has a charging point and it's fast charging. Very fast. I have used it several times.

As we were speaking, the bus arrived. I was in a hurry to enter but the driver said, Sorry Sir, let me park properly please.

Haa. See Grammar with correct intonation and oral English.



**Gov. Alex Otti launches Abia green shuttle service  
Nigeria first electric vehicle public service**

Haaaaaa. Chineke! Pilot kwa? By the way, he dressed like a pilot. Black trousers, white shirt, black tie, black cap abi, smelling nice. Just like the pilots I see on TV. Don't worry, one day, I will enter a plane and see them in flesh and blood. We are not used to this kind of thing naa. The drivers we know will tell NNAA, ARA AGBAKWALAGI THERE O. MGAAKUWAGI ONU HERE NOW!

Ok o. Pilot ND, ngwanu wo. Kpooram your conductor. I think he stepped outside.

You mean my CO-PILOT, Sir?

Which one is co-pilot again? Is it conducto that you are calling co-pilot?

That's the official nomenclature, Sir!

Nomen...ngiri? La ime bus?

Odiegwu really o!

is usually carried away, avoid it, especially if are the kind of person who sleeps off immediately you enter a vehicle with good AC. There are people like that. You will definitely pass your destination. You won't even know when you get to your bus stop.

If the movie doesn't carry you away, the ambience in the bus will.

Meanwhile, when we got to Abam, I waited for everyone to come down and then I went to the Pilot to ask him a question.

Nnaa, biko, leave grammar now. Inyaala plane before? How come you behave like people who work in aeroplanes?

Sir, we underwent several weeks of training. Very intensive training, before the buses arrived.

Bros, leave grammar kwanu. Let's talk as friends. Haba! I no dey ask again, biko.

So far, there are 20 of these buses. 80 more are coming, to make



Bus driver?

Today na today. Agamileshicha bus kenataa. I was the first to enter that bus. Squeaky clean interior. AC at full blast. Music playing. I noticed one other guy who was also in the bus writing something. Maybe they write names of passengers.

This must be the conductor, I told myself. Every bus has a conductor naa.

So I called out to the driver...

Bros! Driver! Abeg call your conductor for me.

He came to me calmly and said SO SORRY SIR, WE ARE NOT ADDRESSED AS DRIVER. CALL US PILOTS. I AM PILOT ND. NDUBUISI IS MY NAME, PLEASE.

After a while, the bus was full. It was dedicated to news men. Correspondents of media organizations posted to the state. People I worked with when I was CPS, so I was in familiar territory. By the time we were set to leave, my phone was fully charged. Power bank almost full.

Then, the TV. Yes, there is a TV in the bus and it was showing one Nollywood movie.

Na waa o! It was a jolly ride to Abam.

If the driver, sorry, Pilot wants to speak to the passengers, there is a microphone around the steering which he uses.

Let me advise you. You see that bus? If you are someone who

it 100.

These buses have been running free of charge since December and the free service will continue till the end of this month. When the free service ends, I have it on good authority that their charges will be minimal. Cheaper than the regular public transport.

I don't understand Otti's plan o!

Ottiopunde Abia ejeebole eh?

Oleebebe this Governor kpoondi Abia naaga, bikonu?

## Gov. Alex Otti @61

# Empathy as a lifestyle: The Gov. Otti Example



NAHISCO 1980 CLASS OLD BOYS

His Excellency  
**Dr Alex Chioma Otti. OFR.**  
 The Executive Governor  
 Abia State.

20 September 2025

Your Excellency Sir.

**LETTER OF APPRECIATION FOR YOUR KIND ASSISTANCE**  
**(MR. FELIX CHKWUKERE'S MEDICAL ATTENTION)**

Reference to our appeal letter dated 20th August, 2025 and your express approval, the entire members of Ngwa High School Class '80 Old Boys Association and the Family of Okpara, wish to express our profound gratitude to Your Excellency for your timely and generous financial assistance of N10million to cover the medical bills of our dearly brother and Classmate who was recently involved in an unfortunate Car accident and due for surgery.

Your Excellency's magnanimous intervention did not only bring great relief to him and his family but also demonstrates your uncommon commitment to the welfare of the people and your overall people-oriented leadership. The gesture no doubt, has strengthened the bond of unity within our Association beyond

We assure Your Excellency that this rare show of

kindness will remain indelible in our hearts and in the history of our Association. We shall continue to remember you in our prayers and support your administration in its drive towards greater peace, progress, and development in Abia, God's Own State.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the renewed assurances of our highest regard.

Yours faithfully



**Prof. Dan Okenu**  
 Class President  
 NAHISCO '80 Class  
 Phone: +1 404 805 2221  
 Email: daniel.okenu@mail.waldenu.edu

**Committee Members:**

Mr. Pius Nzewuihe - 0706 866 5133  
 Chief Jones Ike- 0816 715 8367  
 Mr. Uche Nwosu- 0803 576 6615  
 Mr. Innocent Okeke- 0909 451 6660

### Good Afternoon My distinguish Governor.

I want to Appreciate you for what you did for me in May 20217 when I was a student in Goldie Theological Institute, Arochukwu. It happened that I needed to pay my school fees of hundred thousand and by the grace of God I contacted you and you responded positively. all to the Glory of God. Im happy today seeing your performance as a Governor.

Since we've not met physically, I want to use this medium to extend my profound gratitude to thank you immensely. I pray that God will continue to bless and keep you in Jesus Name Amen.

Am presently at the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria St James PCN college road Parish Ozu Abam.

**Rev. Arisanna Kelvin Ogbuagu**



The above personal testimonies best illustrate Gov. Otti's deep love and empathy for the weak and the vulnerable in the society. Over the years Governor Alex Otti has demonstrated a consistency in assisting them with whatever resources that is available to him.

It is a trait that he has practiced very quietly over the years in the best Christian tradition. Indeed, countless number of people have benefitted from

his quiet philanthropy.

The Establishment of the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, the Disabled Commission and his personal charity organization "The Alex Otti Foundation" are just some of the structural measures that he has undertaken to alleviate the burden of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable in the society.



**ABIA STATE GOVERNMENT  
MINISTRY OF LANDS**

BLOCK A, STATE SECRETARIAT, OGURUBE LAYOUT, UMUAHIA.

**INVITATION TO TENDER**

**PROJECT: Construction of an Office Secretariat of Four-Storeys.**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Abia State Ministry of Lands, in its supervisory role over public buildings and maintenance, hereby invites tenders from competent, reputable, and registered contractors with proven experience to submit bids for the construction of a four-storey office secretariat complex at the Ministry Headquarters, Umuahia.

**2. SCOPE OF WORK**

The project encompasses site preparation, construction of the 4-storey building, structural works, finishing, painting, and the installation of essential systems like electrical, plumbing, sewage, and fire-fighting facilities.

**3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- a) Evidence of Certificate of Incorporation with the Corporate Affairs Commission.
- b) Evidence of Company income's Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years valid till 31<sup>st</sup> December.
- c) Evidence of Abia State Identity number (ABSSIN) registration.
- d) Company profile, personnel and similar jobs executed in the last five years.
- e) All documents for submission must be transmitted, with a convey letter bearing the company/firm's letter head paper and written in English.
- f) Certificate of registration with Abia State Ministry of Lands upon payment of a non-refundable fee.
- g) Evidence of firm's registration with relevant professional body, e.g COREN/QSRBN/TOPREC/ARCON/CORBON/SURCON/ESVARBON etc.
- h) Sworn Affidavit disclosing whether or not any officer of the relevant committees of the Abia State Ministry of Lands is a former or present director, shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the bidder and to confirm that all information presented in its bid are true and correct in the particulars.

**4. SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS**

Bids must be submitted in two separate sealed envelopes (Technical and Financial), placed within a larger envelope clearly labeled "Construction of an Office Secretariat of Four-Storeys ". The submission should be addressed to the **Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Block A, State Secretariat, Ogurube Layout, Umuahia, Abia State.**

**5. CLOSING DATE AND TIME**

The deadline for submissions is **6 weeks from the date of this publication.**

**6. OPENING OF BIDS**

Technical and financial bids will be opened immediately on the first work day after the deadline in the Ministry's Conference Room, with bidders or their representatives invited to attend.

**7. DISCLAIMER**

The Ministry reserves the right to decline any bid or cancel the process without liability.

Signed:

TPL. UKEJE U. UKPABI  
Permanent Secretary



**ABIA STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA  
MINISTRY OF LANDS**

BLOCK A, STATE SECRETARIAT, OGURUBE LAYOUT, UMUAHIA.

**INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT)**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Abia State Ministry of Lands in its commitment to modernizing land administration through the Digital Archive System and GIS integration, hereby invites reputable and competent ICT firms to submit tenders for the **Upgrading of the Abia State Geographic Information System (GIS).**

**2.0 SCOPE OF WORK**

The project includes but is not limited to:

- Upgrading of central GIS database and server infrastructure.
- Digitalization and Recertification of land title documents.
- Integration with the Abia State Social Identity Number (ABSSIN) for automated land transactions.
- Training of Ministry staff on advanced GIS software and data management.

**3.0 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- a) Evidence of Certificate of Incorporation with the Corporate Affairs Commission.
- b) Evidence of Company income's Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years valid till 31<sup>st</sup> December.
- c) Evidence of Abia State Identity number (ABSSIN) registration.
- d) Company profile, personnel and similar jobs executed in the last five years.
- e) All documents for submission must be transmitted, with a convey letter bearing the company/firm's letter head paper and written in English.
- f) Certificate of registration with Abia State Ministry of Lands upon payment of a non-refundable fee.
- g) Evidence of firm's registration with relevant professional body, e.g COREN/QSRBN/TOPREC/ARCON/CORBON/SURCON/ESVARBON etc.
- h) Technical Capacity: Profile of the firm including CVs of key professional staff (e.g., Senior Software Developers) and evidence of at least three similar GIS projects successfully completed in the last five years.
- i) Sworn Affidavit disclosing whether or not any officer of the relevant committees of the Abia State Ministry of Lands is a former or present director, shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the bidder and to confirm that all information presented in its bid are true and correct in the particulars.
- j) Financial Capability: Reference letter from a reputable commercial bank.

**4.0 SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS**

Bids must be submitted in two separate sealed envelopes (Technical and Financial), placed within a larger envelope clearly labeled "Upgrading of the Abia State Geographic Information System (GIS) ". The submission should be addressed to the **Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Block A, State Secretariat, Ogurube Layout, Umuahia, Abia State.**

**5.0 CLOSING DATE AND TIME**

The deadline for submissions is **6 weeks from the date of this publication.**

**6.0 OPENING OF BIDS**

Technical and financial bids will be opened immediately on the first work day after the deadline in the Ministry's Conference Room, with bidders or their representatives invited to attend.

**7.0 DISCLAIMER**

The Ministry reserves the right to decline any bid or cancel the process without liability.

Signed:

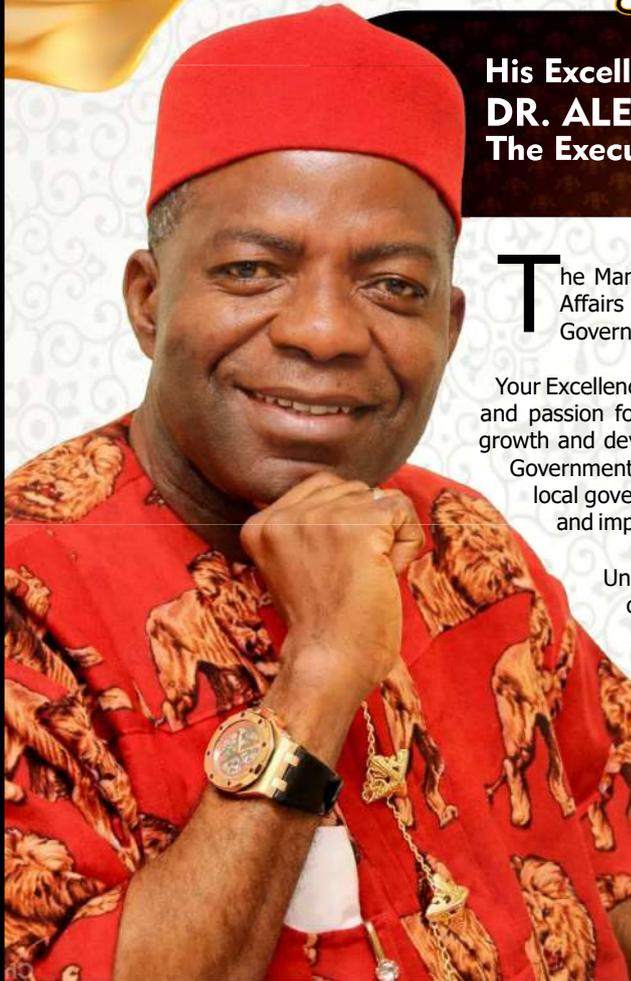
TPL. UKEJE U. UKPABI  
Permanent Secretary



# Birthday Felicitation

to

His Excellency,  
**DR. ALEX CHIOMA OTTI (OFR)**  
 The Executive Governor of Abia State.



**T**he Management and Staff of the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs warmly felicitate with His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, Executive Governor of Abia State, on the joyous occasion of his birthday.

Your Excellency, your visionary leadership, unwavering commitment to good governance, and passion for institutional reforms continue to reposition Abia State for sustainable growth and development. Through your purposeful administration, the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs has experienced renewed direction, strengthened local government administration, enhanced engagement with traditional institutions, and improved grassroots governance across the 17 Local Government Areas.

Under your leadership, local governments have become active drivers of development through youth empowerment and capacity-building initiatives, including the Abia TechRise ICT Programme, digital bootcamps, and other skills acquisition programmes designed to equip young people with globally relevant competencies. Your administration's encouragement of sports development through local government sporting engagements and talent discovery programmes has further created opportunities for youth participation, unity, and social inclusion across communities.

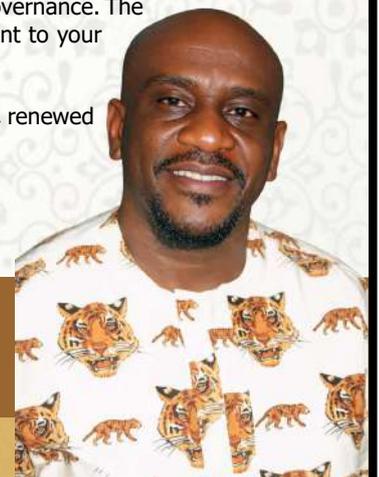
Your commitment to infrastructural renewal at the grassroots has also been evident in ongoing projects across the LGAs, including prototype evening markets, community-based development initiatives, agricultural intervention programmes, and other people-oriented projects aimed at stimulating local economies and improving livelihoods.

Furthermore, your support for peace-building through mediation initiatives, coupled with your insistence on transparency and accountability in local government administration, has significantly deepened public confidence in governance. The establishment and strengthening of Local Government Mediation Centres remain a clear testament to your dedication to peaceful dispute resolution and community harmony.

As you celebrate this new year, we pray that Almighty God grants you greater wisdom, sound health, renewed strength, and divine guidance to continue the transformational work you are doing for Abia State.

**Happy Birthday, Your Excellency.**  
**May the years ahead bring greater accomplishments and enduring impact.**

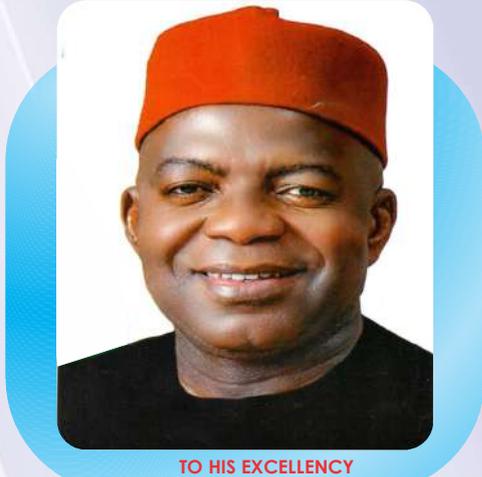
**Signed:**  
**Prince Uzor Nwachukwu**  
 Honourable Commissioner  
 Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs





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

*Goodwill Message*



TO HIS EXCELLENCY  
**HE Dr. Alex Chioma OTTI (OFR)**  
THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE

On The Occasion Of Your  
**Birthday**  
18th February 2026

Your Excellency, 18th day of February every year will ever remain remarkable in your life and humanity, as you are a special gift from God not only to your family but to mankind.

The Ministry of Power & Public Utilities Abia State joins the good people of our dear State in celebrating His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otte, OFR, on the joyous occasion of his birthday on 18th February 2026.

Your Excellency, your outstanding leadership and visionary governance have ushered a new era of transformation in the Power, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sectors of Abia State in less than three (3) years in office. Your administration has demonstrated uncommon resolve in addressing long-standing infrastructural challenges and laying a solid foundation for sustainable development.

Under your purposeful leadership, communities across the State have witnessed significant improvements in electricity supply through the provision and installation of transformers, restoration of power infrastructure, establishment of the Abia State Electricity Market regulated by Abia State Electricity Regulatory Authority \*ASERA) and strategic interventions aimed at energizing homes, businesses, and public institutions. These efforts have stimulated economic activities, improved security and enhanced the overall quality of life for our citizens.

Your approval of the Abia Integrated WASH Accelerated Program (AIWAP) has set in motion the reactivation of several forgotten water schemes like the CKC Regional Water Scheme Akaand installation of new solar powered water and sanitation projects across urban and rural communities are quite commendable.

Your commitment to ensuring access to safe and potable water reflects a deep understanding of the essential needs of our people and a genuine dedication to public welfare.

Our dear Governor (Ekwueme Ndi Abia), your unwavering focus on efficiency, accountability, and service delivery continues to inspire us within the Ministry to align fully with your transformative vision for a greater Abia State.

As you celebrate another year of impactful life and service, we pray that God grants you renewed strength, wisdom, and good health to continue leading Abia State toward greater heights of progress and prosperity.

We wish you long life, Your Excellency.  
Happy Birthday!

Signed.

**Engr. Ikechukwu Monday**  
Honourable Commissioner,  
Ministry of Power & Public Utilities Abia State



**Abia State Electricity Regulatory Authority (ASERA)**

15 Library Avenue, Umuahia, Abia State  
Website: [www.asera.abiastate.gov.ng](http://www.asera.abiastate.gov.ng)  
Telephone: 07079092439

*(Established pursuant to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), the Electricity Act 2023 (as amended), and the Abia State Electricity Law 2025)*

**INVITATION FOR COMMENTS ON PROPOSED REGULATORY INSTRUMENTS FOR THE ABIA STATE ELECTRICITY MARKET**

The Abia State Electricity Regulatory Authority (ASERA or the Authority) is the statutory body responsible for the regulation of intra-state electricity activities within Abia State, including electricity generation, transmission, distribution, supply, trading, and other related services.

In furtherance of its mandate to promote a safe, efficient, reliable and consumer-focused electricity market, the Authority has developed a suite of proposed regulatory instruments to provide a coherent framework for licensing, market conduct, consumer protection, and regulatory oversight within the Abia State Electricity Market.

The proposed instruments include:

1. ASERA Licensing Regulations
2. ASERA Business Rules
3. Consumer Rights and Obligations Regulations
4. Generation Licence Terms and Conditions
5. Transmission Licence Terms and Conditions
6. Distribution Licence Terms and Conditions
7. Licence, Permits and Operating Fees Regulations

These instruments are intended to establish clear regulatory obligations for market participants, safeguard consumer interests, enhance transparency and accountability, and provide regulatory certainty to support investment and service delivery within the State.

Accordingly, the Authority hereby invites comments, representations, and submissions from stakeholders in the Abia State Electricity Market, including but not limited to electricity operators, licensees, prospective investors, consumer groups, civil society organisations, public institutions, and members of the general public.

The Consultation Paper on the Proposed Licensing, Market, Consumer Protection and Business Framework for the Abia State Electricity Market, as well as the draft regulatory instruments are available on the Authority's website, [www.asera.abiastate.gov.ng](http://www.asera.abiastate.gov.ng)

**. Submission of Comments**

Written comments should be submitted to the Authority within 21 days of this publication by email to [info.asera@abiastate.gov.ng](mailto:info.asera@abiastate.gov.ng)

and should clearly reference the relevant instrument or provision.

Submissions should clearly reference the relevant section or annex and provide reasoned justification for any proposed amendments.

Signed

**ABIA STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY AUTHORITY**



# ABIA STATE UNIVERSITY

PMB UTURU

| ABIA

| STATE NIGERIA

## Governing Council

# Happy Birthday

TO A TRANSFORMATIONAL AND ICONIC LEADER

## HE Dr. Alex Chioma OTTI (OFR)

EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE

# @ 61



The Governing Council of Abia State University, Uturu most warmly felicitates with our transformational leader, ebullient, vivacious and uncommon achiever, His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, Executive Governor of Abia State on the commemoration of his 61<sup>st</sup> Birthday.

As the Visitor to the University, you have shown tremendous capacity and have positively changed the story of the University, to an enviable citadel of learning, with uncommon legacy and monumental projects and other accomplishments.

As a Servant-Leader and "Ekwueme" of Abia State, you have demystified governance and have brought succor to the less privileged and positively impacted on all facets of the State with amazing dividends of democracy.

We, in Abia State University, rejoice with you on this auspicious and momentous occasion and pray God to continue to endow you with health, wisdom and grace for more celebrations in years ahead.

Congratulations our Indefatigable Leader  
 Congratulations our "Ekwueme" Governor  
**Happy Birthday, Sir**

### Signed

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Rt. Hon. Dr. Agwu U. Agwu              | - Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council     |
| Prof. Ndukwe J. Okeudo                 | - Vice-Chancellor                                    |
| Prof. Gazie Okpara,                    | - Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)                  |
| Prof. Roseline I. Ndimele              | - Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration)            |
| Barr. (Mrs.) Chinyere J. Okeziem Nwoko | - Member-Perm. Secretary, Min. of Tertiary Education |
| Sir Idris Korform Wabara, Esq          | - Member   |
| Dr. Elelenta N. Elele                  | - Member   |
| Rt. Rev. Dr. Nkechi Nwosu              | - Member   |
| Dr. Monday Ubani, SAN                  | - Member   |
| Engr. Kalu Nto                         | - Member   |
| Mr. Stanley Okonta                     | - Member   |
| Dr. Onwubiko Dike                      | - Member   |
| Professor David Chikezie               | - Member   |
| Professor Levi Nwoko                   | - Member   |
| Professor Kenneth Ngwogu               | - Member   |
| Prof. Emmanuel I. Akubugwu             | - Member   |
| Dr. Chidi E. Osuagwu                   | - Member   |
| Mr. Agwu Kalulgwé                      | - Member   |
| Dr. Acho Elendu                        | - Registrar/Secretary to Council                     |

# Felicitations!



**TO HIS EXCELLENCY**  
**Dr. Alex Chioma OTTI (OFR)**  
**EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE**  
**ON THE OCCASION OF HIS**  
**BIRTHDAY**

On behalf of the Board, Management and entire staff of the Abia State Universal Basic Education Board, I most respectfully extend warm, heartfelt, and resounding birthday felicitations and profound goodwill to Your Excellency, Dr Alex Chioma Otti OFR, the Executive Governor of Abia State, on the joyous occasion of your birthday, today, 18th February 2026.

This auspicious occasion provides not only a moment to celebrate your life, Your Excellency's birthday, but also offers a worthy moment for deep reflection, a gratitude, and celebration of a life devoted to purposeful leadership, visionary governance, and selfless service to the people of Abia State. It is not merely a celebration of added years, but a celebration of enduring impact, courageous reforms, and transformational ideas that continue to redefine governance and public service in our dear state.

As a government, the education sector, particularly basic education has felt the unmistakable imprint of your visionary leadership. Under your administration, education has been rightly repositioned as the bedrock of sustainable development, social equity, and future prosperity. Your unwavering commitment to restoring standards, dignity, accountability, and excellence in public education has inspired renewed hope among teachers, learners, parents, and education stakeholders across Abia State and your administration has set a new benchmark for what responsive governance in education should represent.

Your Excellency's bold reforms in basic education, ranging from infrastructure renewal, teacher recruitment and capacity development, institutional discipline, digital innovation, quality assurance, and improved learning environments, have laid a solid foundation for a future-ready Abia child. These giant strides have not only revived confidence in public schools but have also reinforced the central role of education driving economic growth and social transformation.

As we commemorate your birthday, we also celebrate a leader whose passion for human capital development continues to shape the future of our children and the prosperity of our dear state. The footprints of your reforms are boldly etched in the renewed morale of teachers, the improved learning environment of pupils, and the strategic repositioning of ASUBEB to deliver effectively on its mandate.

At ASUBEB, we remain deeply encouraged by your hands-on leadership, clear policy direction, and firm belief that no meaningful development can occur without investing deliberately in the education of our children. Your support, guidance, and trust have strengthened our resolve to deliver on our mandate with integrity, professionalism, and measurable results.

On this special day, we also commend your exemplary personal qualities, your discipline, humility, resilience, and people-centred leadership style, which continue to set you apart as a leader of uncommon vision and character. Your life and service continue to be a source of inspiration to public servants and leaders across generations.

As you mark another year in good health and fulfilment, we pray that Almighty God grants you renewed strength, sound wisdom, and divine guidance to continue steering the affairs of Abia State to greater heights. May your years ahead be crowned with more impactful achievements, lasting legacies, and the fulfillment of your noble aspirations for a prosperous, educated, and globally competitive Abia State.

Once again, Your Excellency, happy birthday, and congratulations on a life of purpose, service, and transformational leadership.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of our highest regards and best wishes.

Happy Birthday, Your Excellency.

Signed:

**Lady Ezihe Lydia Onuoha**

Executive Chairman

Abia State Universal Basic Education Board





ABIA STATE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL),  
 AROCHUKWU (ASCETA)

## TO A BUILDER OF FUTURES

*Echoes of gratitude, wisppers of joy;  
 A state once in doom, now blooming  
 and blossoming.*

*Building hope where doubt and  
 despair once lived;  
 Living landmarks, turning  
 quiet prayers into achievable  
 dreams.*

*A fore runner of transformational  
 leadership and possibilities;  
 Lighting paths for the weary to  
 believe again.*

ASCETA - Management, staff and  
 students says

**"Happy Birthday to a builder of  
 futures,**

**A giver of hope, a pace setter, a  
 leader per excellence,**

**A leader whose story will  
 outlive time."**



Happy  
**Birthday**  
 TO YOU

**The Executive Governor of Abia State!**

**DR. ALEX OTTI** OFR



# GOVERNMENT OF ABIA STATE OF NIGERIA

**ABIA STATE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE  
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

No. 2 Adelabu Street, Umuahia



# Happy Birthday ANNIVERSARY

TO THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNOR  
**NE Dr. Alex Chioma OTTI (OFR)**  
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE

On behalf of the Staff and Management of Abia State Primary Healthcare Development Agency, we wish to felicitate with "the People's Governor" NE Dr. Alex Chioma Otti OFR on the occasion of his Birthday Anniversary.

Yours has been a life of Mission, Purpose and Impact.

We note with pride, your placement of Abia State as the first amongst the South East States in the development of Primary Health Care.

We note particularly,

- The Revitalization of 200 Healthcare Centers in 2025.
- The Recruitment of Healthcare Workers to bridge the HRH gap in Primary Healthcare.
- Payment of new salary scale for Abia Health Workers etc.

We could continue counting but for time and space.

Once again, a big hearty congratulation for adding another feather to your Star-Studded Cap

**Dr. Kalu Ulu Kalu** <sup>Signed</sup> MBBCH MSC PH, FNACP  
Executive Secretary.



# Photos Speak



R-L: Sen. Emma Nwaka, Gov Alex Otti of Abia, his Deputy, Engr. Ikechukwu Emetu, Mrs Nnenna Ihejirika, Lt.Gen. Azubuike Ihejirika (Rtd) and Abia Comm. for Works, Engr. Don Otumchere Oti, during the commissioning of the newly reconstructed Omenuko Bridge and the 30-kilometre Abam-Ndi Okereke - Arochukwu road, which connects Ozu Abam to Arochukwu.



L-R: Interim National Secretary of the Labour Party (LP), Sen. Darlington Nwokocha and Member Repr. Isialangwa North/South Federal Constituency, Rt. Hon. Ginger Onwusibe, during the commissioning of the newly reconstructed Omenuko Bridge and the 30-kilometre Abam-Ndi Okereke -Arochukwu road, which connects Ozu Abam to Arochukwu, Arochukwu LGA.



Speaker, Abia House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Emmanuel Emeruwa, Member Repr. Isukwuato/ Umunnneochi Federal Constituency, Hon Amaobi Ogah, Deputy Speaker, Abia House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Austin Nmerogini and Former Deputy Gov of Abia, Sir Ude Oko Chukwu, during the commissioning of the newly reconstructed Omenuko Bridge and the 30-kilometre Abam-Ndi Okereke -Arochukwu road, which connects Ozu Abam to Arochukwu



L-R: Eze Aro, His Eminence Eze Eberechukwu Oji and The Leader of Abam Onyerubi, Chief James Ume (Ike Abam), during the commissioning of the newly reconstructed Omenuko Bridge and the 30-kilometre Abam-Ndi Okereke -Arochukwu road, which connects Ozu Abam to Arochukwu, Arochukwu LGA.



L-R: Member Repr. Ohafia Federal Constituency, Hon. Ibe Okwara Osonwa and Former Minister of State for Mines and Steel Development, Dr. Uche Ogah, during the commissioning of the newly reconstructed Omenuko Bridge and the 30-kilometre Abam-Ndi Okereke -Arochukwu road, which connects Ozu Abam to Arochukwu.



Governor Alex Otti of Abia State, exchanging greetings with some School Children, during the commissioning of the newly reconstructed Omenuko Bridge and the 30-kilometre Abam-Ndi Okereke -Arochukwu road, which connects Ozu Abam to Arochukwu, Arochukwu LGA.



L-R: Repr. of Secretary to the Govt of the Federation, Sen. George Akume, Chairman of FASA and Permanent Secretary, Special Services Office of the Presidency, Muhammad Sanusi Danjuma, Repr. of National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, his SA on Governance and Sub-national Matters, Mr A.B. Okuro and Gov Alex Otti of Abia, as Abia Governor declared open the security meeting, being organised by the Federal Govt in collaboration with Abia State Govt, held at the Int'l Conference Centre, Umuahia.



A cross section of Ohuhu people, during an enlarged solidarity visit of Ohuhu people to Abia Governor at Michael Okpara Auditorium, Umuahia.

# Photos Speak



L-R: Chairman/CEO Caades Group, Chief Chima Anyaso, Gov. Alex Otti of Abia and Former Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Azubuike Ihejirika (Rtd), during the commissioning of the newly reconstructed Omenuko Bridge and the 30-kilometre Abam-Ndi Okereke -Arochukwu road, which connects Ozu Abam to Arochukwu, Arochukwu LGA.



L-R: The Leader of Abam Onyerubi, Chief James Ume (Ike Abam) and Member Representing Isiala Ngwa South State Constituency in the Abia State House of Assembly, Hon. Dennis Rowland Ceaser, during the commissioning of the newly reconstructed Omenuko Bridge and the 30-kilometre Abam-Ndi Okereke - road, which connects Ozu Abam to Arochukwu, Arochukwu LGA.



L-R: The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council, Abia State University, Rt. Hon. Agwu U. Agwu, PhD and Chairman, Abia State Council of Trad. Rulers, HRM Eze Linus Nto Mbah, during the commissioning of the newly reconstructed Omenuko Bridge and the 30-kilometre Abam-Ndi Okereke -Arochukwu road, which connects Ozu Abam to Arochukwu, Arochukwu LGA.



L-R: Governor Alex Otti of Abia State and his Wife, Mrs Priscilla Otti, during an enlarged solidarity visit of Ohuhu people to Abia Governor at the Michael Okpara Auditorium, Umuahia.



L-R: The National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, represented by his Special Adviser on Governance and Sub-national Matters, Mr A.B. Okuro and Gov Alex Otti of Abia, as Abia Governor declared open the security meeting, being organised by the Federal Govt in collaboration with Abia State Govt, held at the Int'l Conference Centre, Umuahia.



Gov Alex Otti of Abia (c), Repr. of SGF, Sen. George Akume, Chairman of FASA and Perm. Sec., Special Services Office of the Presidency, Muhammad Sanusi Danjuma (13th R), Repr. of National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, his SA on Governance and Sub-national Matters, Mr A.B. Okuro (13th L) and others, as Abia Gov. declared open the security meeting, being organised by the Federal Govt in collaboration with Abia State Govt, held at the Int'l Conference Centre, Umuahia.



Wife of Abia Gov, Mrs Priscilla Otti (c), Gov Alex Otti of Abia (7th L), Member Repr. Ikwuano/ Umuahia Federal Constituency, Hon Obi Aguocha, Commissioner, Federal Character Commission, Abuja, Hon. Victor Ikeji (7th R), Chief Onyema Ugochuku and others, during an enlarged solidarity visit of Ohuhu people to Abia Governor at the Michael Okpara Auditorium, Umuahia.



L-R: Gov Alex Otti of Abia, Lt.Gen. Azubuike Ihejirika (Rtd), his Wife, Mrs Nnenna Ihejirika, Abia Deputy Gov, Engr. Ikechukwu Emetu, Hon. Amobi Ogah and Deputy Speaker, Abia House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Austin Nmergini, during the commissioning of the newly reconstructed Omenuko Bridge and the 30-kilometre Abam-Ndi Okereke -Arochukwu road, which connects Ozu Abam to Arochukwu.



## Hon. Chief Ebisike Chimaobi

Former Member, House of Representatives Aba North and Aba South Federal Constituency,  
Three Arms Zone, National Assembly Complex, Abuja.  
9th Assembly



## Birthday Felicitation

TO HIS EXCELLENCY  
**Dr. Alex Chioma OTTI (OFPR)**  
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE

**O**n this distinguished occasion of your 61st birthday, I join millions of proud Abians in celebrating not just a remarkable leader, but a milestone rich in meaning and symbolism.

61 is not merely a number; it is the confluence of experience and vitality. It represents six decades of accumulated wisdom crowned with the grace and refinement. Biblically and culturally, it signifies fruitfulness after seasons of perseverance; an age where

insight is sharpened, vision is clearer, and legacy becomes more intentional. At 61, leadership is no

longer driven by ambition alone, but by purpose, depth, and generational impact. Your life exemplifies this powerful transition.

Your Excellency, your stewardship of Abia State has redefined governance. Through strategic reforms, infrastructural renewal, economic recalibration, and disciplined administration, you have altered the trajectory of our dear state. Roads that symbolize connectivity and progress are being restored. Institutions are regaining credibility.

Public trust is being rebuilt. The narrative has shifted from decline to development.

These accomplishments speak eloquently of your profound love for Abia and your unwavering commitment to her renaissance.

On a personal note, I remain deeply humbled by the warmth with which you received me from the very beginning. You welcomed me with open arms, extended uncommon support, and demonstrated a consistency of love that continues to inspire my gratitude.

Your encouragement has not only strengthened me but has reaffirmed my belief in purposeful leadership rooted in genuine human connection.

As you mark this symbolic 61st year, I pray that God grants you renewed vigor, divine clarity, good health, and greater grace to complete the noble vision you have set for Abia. May your legacy grow stronger with time, and may history remember this era as the chapter when courageous leadership restored pride and progress to our land.

**Happy 61th Birthday, Your Excellency.**

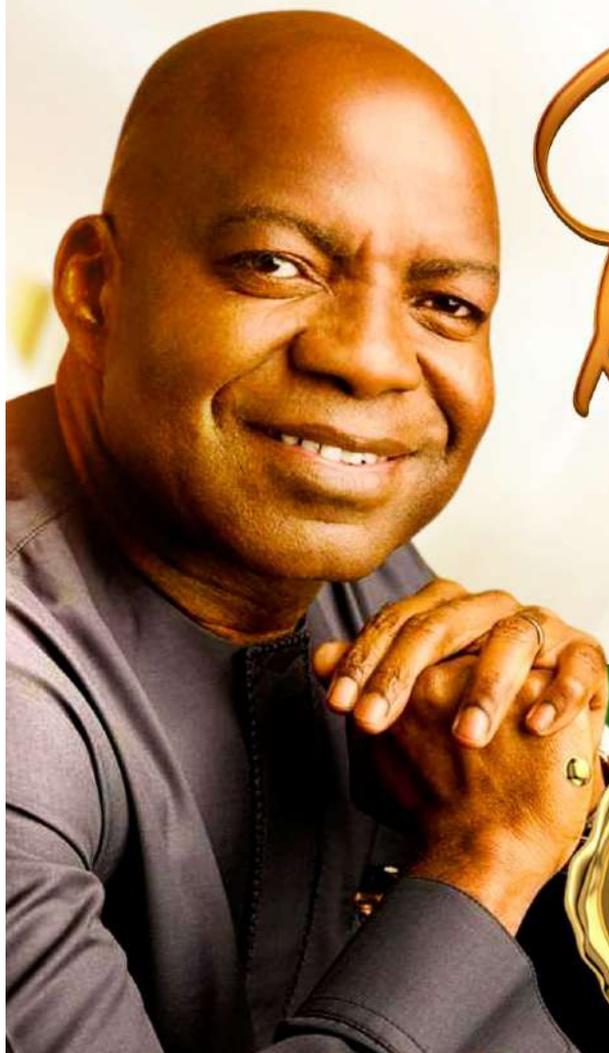
**Hon. Chief Ebisike Chimaobi Iheanyichukwu**  
(Chi-Ma-Obi-Ndi-Aba)  
9th Assembly Member, Federal House of Representatives,  
Aba North and Aba South Federal Constituency.





**“WHEN THE RIGHTEOUS  
ARE IN AUTHORITY, THE  
PEOPLE REJOICE...”**

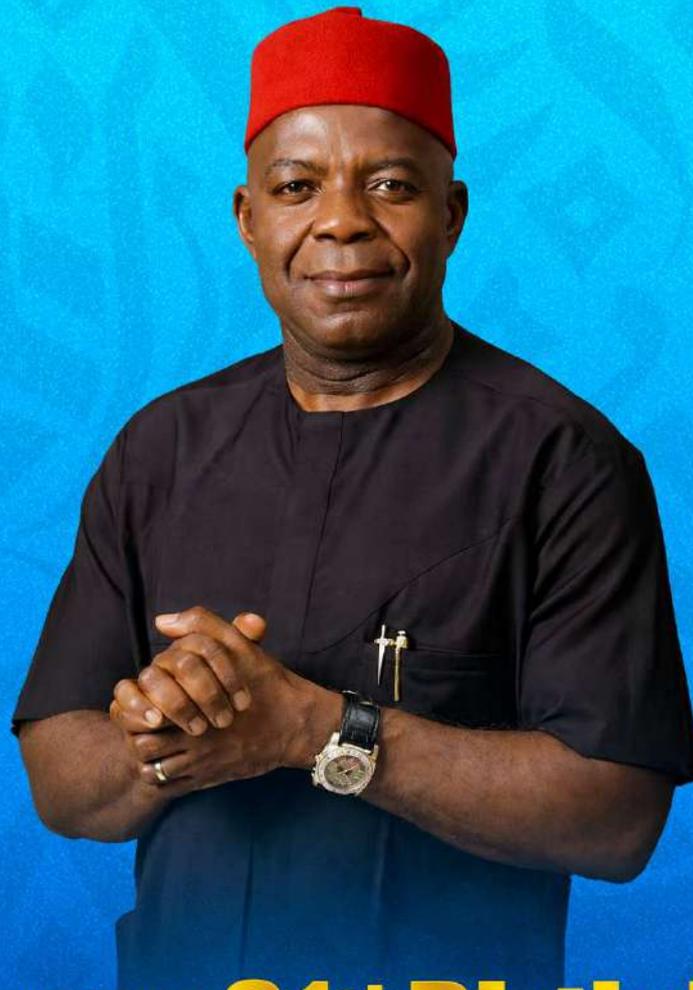
*—Proverbs 29:2*



Happy  
**Birth**day

**DR. ALEX**  
**CHIOMA OTTI, OFR**  
Governor of Abia State





# Happy 61<sup>st</sup> Birthday

*Your Excellency,  
Dr. Alex Otti, OFR.*

**We celebrate a leader whose vision and exemplary leadership continue to shape a brighter future for the people of Abia State.**

**May this new age bring even greater wisdom, strength, and transformative impact.**

from

 **Ultimum**

# News

## Governor Urges Church Members To Remain Steadfast

By Blessing Anienwe

The Governor of Abia State, Dr. Alex Otti, and his wife, Mrs. Priscilla Otti, joined worshippers at the 8th anniversary celebration of Pastor Olugbenga Aremu's divine assignment as Regional Overseer of the South-East VI Regional Headquarters of Mountain of Fire and Miracle Ministries (MFM), Amuzukwu, Umuahia.

The governor's presence drew warm applause from congregants, who expressed delight at hosting him during the special thanksgiving service.

Addressing the church, Governor Otti encouraged members to remain steadfast in faith, noting that delays in answered prayers should not weaken their trust in God.

He shared his personal journey to leadership, stressing that despite challenges, he remained persistent until he achieved his mandate.

Describing himself as a God-fearing leader, the governor assured the congregation of his administration's commitment to restoring the dignity of Abia

State. He emphasised that both indigenes and non-indigenes would benefit from his policies, adding that many non-indigenes are already contributing to the state's workforce under his government. He concluded by praying for God's blessings upon the people.

In his sermon titled, "The Mystery of Divine Mission," Pastor Olugbenga Aremu, drawing from Jeremiah 1:4-5, described divine mission as God's call upon an individual's life. He said every person is ordained for a purpose before birth and must discover that purpose to fulfill destiny.

According to him, living a holy and righteous life positions believers for God's empowerment and protection, assuring that no opposition can prevail against a divinely aligned mission.

He urged leaders to pursue vision with integrity, noting that true leadership is about service and legacy, not personal display.

The event also featured prayers for the Governor and presentation of awards of excellence to deserving church members for their contributions to the growth of the ministry.

## Gov Otti Moves To Clear Salary Arrears Owed Ex-councillors

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

Abia State Governor, Dr Alex Otti, has told former councillors who served between 1999 and 2022, that payment of salary arrears owed them by previous administrations will start before the end of this month.

Governor Otti gave the assurance during a meeting with members of the Association of Former Elected Councillors at the JAAC Secretariat, Ogurube Layout, Umuahia, stating that the arrears would be settled in batches.

"I'm told that everything should be set by the end of this month. So what that means is that by the end of this month, we will start the payment", the governor assured.

He commended the association for withdrawing

pending court cases against the state government, describing the move as a demonstration of goodwill and confidence in his administration.

Governor Otti who noted that every labourer deserves his wages, assured that his administration stands for what is just and right and would always stand by it.

The Governor emphasised that leadership is a call to stewardship, not self-glorification, adding that his administration is guided strictly by principles of justice and fairness.

According to Governor Otti, the decision to start payment of the outstanding arrears is not politically motivated but driven by a commitment to fairness and justice.

He emphasised that the move is not influenced by party considerations,

assuring that all affected former councillors would be treated equally.

"The reason why we are doing this is not politics. Whether you are a member of my party or you are not, you will be treated fairly", he assured.

Governor Otti commended the association for embracing a peaceful resolution by withdrawing the legal action it had instituted against the State Government over the outstanding salary arrears.

The governor directed the member representing Isiala Ngwa North and South Federal Constituency, Chief Ginger Onwusibe, to collaborate with the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Prince Uzor Nwachukwu, to formalise the association as a recognised structure.

Earlier, the former elected

councillors who spoke through their coordinator, Chief Tony Agbayim, expressed gratitude to Governor Otti for concluding arrangements to offset the salary arrears owed to them by previous administrations.

The Association described the development as one that has "put past administrations to shame" and lamented that the neglect of their welfare by successive administrations of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) had subjected members to severe hardship, which, they noted, led to the death of some colleagues.

They commended Otti for prioritising workers' welfare through prompt and regular payment of salaries and pensions, as well as infrastructural improvements in Umuahia, which they said had restored the pride and dignity of Abia people.



Abia State Governor, Dr Alex Otti

## Public Notice

### UMUNNEKWU AGBO DEVELOPMENT UNION (UADU)

This Is To Inform The General Public That The Above Named Union Has Applied To The Corporate Affairs Commission For Registration Under Part "F" Of The Companies And Allied Matters Act 2020

#### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. DR. SUNNY OBY MADUKA - CHAIRMAN
2. HIGH CHIEF GHIDI NDUKWE OGBOKU - GENERAL SECRETARY - TRUSTEE
3. UDUIKE DAN NDUKAKU - TRUSTEE

#### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To advocate for the development of Umunnekwu Agbo Development Union
2. To propagate peaceful coexistence among Umunnekwu Agbo Development Union
3. To advocate and ensure fair sharing among Umunnekwu Agbo Development Union
4. To initiate projects that will improve local amenities.

Any Objection To The Registration Should Be Forwarded To The Registrar, Corporate Affairs Commission Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Irons Street, Maitama Abuja, Within 28 Days Of This Publication.

SIGNED: TRUSTEES

## Public Notice

### PATIENTS ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (PAHeaIF)

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under Part "F" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA), 2020.

#### NAMES OF THE TRUSTEES:

- 1) Uguru Igwe Miracle (Chairman)
- 2) Eboho Oluochi Justina (Vice Chairman)
- 3) Onuoha Kalu Arisa Ogwe (Member)
- 4) Eryinnaya Okechukwu Goodluck (Secretary)

#### AIMS AND OBJECTS:

- 1) To advocate, promote and protect patients healthcare rights through education, awareness campaigns, legal proceedings, etc.
- 2) To facilitate patients' access to proper healthcare services and the access to available healthcare aids.
- 3) To identify victims of cases of healthcare rights violation which may lead to unfortunate death or incapacitation of the mind or the body, and offering supports (platforms, opportunities, financial and emotional) to cushion the pain and the devastation.
- 4) To train, re-train and educate the healthcare practitioners on their duties and obligations to patients under their care.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Irons Street, PMB. 198, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days from the date of this publication.

#### Signed:

Enyinnaya Okechukwu Goodluck  
(Secretary)

## No Trader Will Be Shortchanged, Otti Vows Over Market Remodelling

By Amarachi Uzoukwu

Governor Alex Otti of Abia State has assured traders affected by ongoing market redevelopment projects in the state that none of them would be shortchanged.

He gave the assurance recently in Umuahia during a meeting with the National Executive Council of the National Association of Nigerian Traders.

The Governor who pledged fairness, transparency and strict adherence to safety standards in the remodelling process, stressed that the primary objective of his government is to ensure a clean and safe environment in schools, hospitals, markets, industrial areas and public institutions across the state.

He explained that unsafe structures, including some buildings at the Ekeoha Shopping Centre, were identified and ordered demolished to avert possible collapse and loss of lives.

On the ongoing remodelling of a section of Ariaria International Market, Governor Otti noted that although the project was not

initiated by his administration, it is being supported to ensure its successful completion.

The governor reaffirmed that existing shop owners would enjoy the "first right of refusal" in the allocation of newly constructed shops and disclosed that he had issued a directive to that effect, warning that any violation of the directive would be reversed.

"No trader will lose a shop because of temporary liquidity challenges. You will only lose your shop if you choose not to take it", he said.

The Governor disclosed that arrangements had been made with some banks to provide soft loans to traders who may face financial constraints in acquiring the new shops.

Governor Otti ruled out allowing traders to construct the shops themselves, citing the need for quality control and compliance with approved standards.

He added that the redesigned markets would accommodate more shops than previously existed to meet growing demand.

The Governor, however,

communication gap regarding the project and directed relevant officials to intensify engagement with stakeholders to ensure better understanding.

He reiterated that his administration would not tolerate injustice and urged anyone with grievances to channel their complaints through appropriate authorities for redress.

Earlier, the President of the National Association of Nigerian Traders, Dr Ken Ukaoha, urged Governor Otti to ensure justice and fairness in the ongoing market remodelling projects, pointing out that displacement of original shop owners would amount to injustice.

Dr. Ukaoha said traders across the country support the redevelopment initiative but insisted that due process must guide implementation.

He emphasised the need for full involvement of existing shop owners in the redevelopment process, noting that although markets constitutionally belong to the State, allocation rights had historically been granted to traders.

The national president

proposed transparent engagement on reconstruction costs and structured payment plans to ease financial pressure on traders and described such measures as essential for a mutually beneficial outcome.

He, however, commended the Otti administration for visible improvements in infrastructure and the business environment.

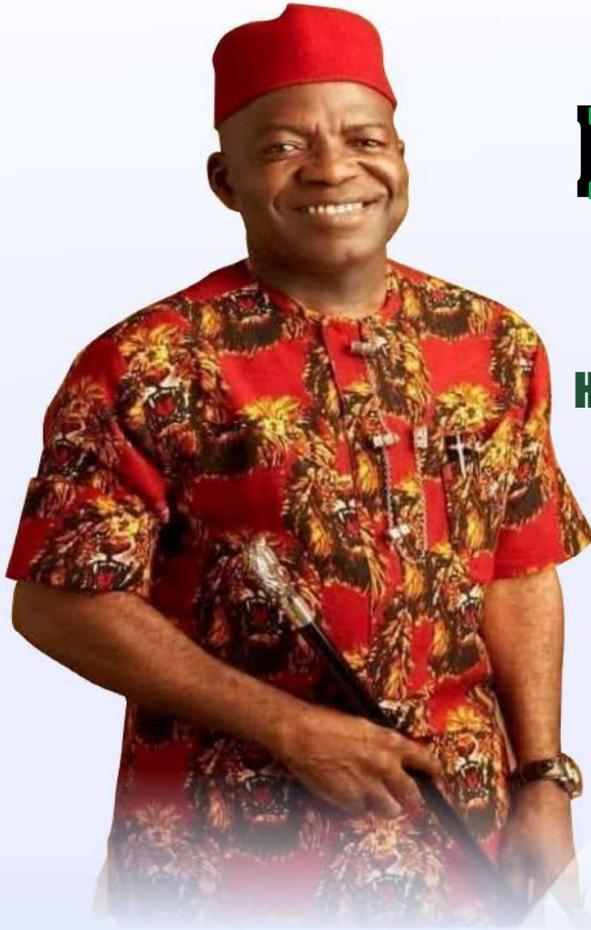
According to him, the delegation toured several parts of the state and observed remarkable improvements compared to previous years, including better electricity supply, improved road networks and rehabilitated markets, which have attracted traders from within and outside Nigeria.

"We heard that Abia has changed. We heard that there is light, that the roads have improved and that markets that were once flooded and dilapidated are being restored. "We came to see for ourselves and we have seen the changes", he said.

Dr. Ukaoha reaffirmed the association's support for reforms aimed at promoting development and pledged continued collaboration with the Abia State Government.



## ABIA STATE OIL PRODUCING AREAS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ASOPADEC



# Happy Birthday

## ANNIVERSARY

### TO THE PEOPLE'S GOV.

## HE Dr. Alex Chioma OTTI (OFR)

THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE

restoration of power infrastructure, establishment of the Abia State Electricity Market regulated by Abia State Electricity Regulatory Authority (ASERA) and strategic interventions aimed at energizing homes, businesses, and public institutions. These efforts have stimulated economic activities, improved security and enhanced the overall quality of life for our citizens.

Your approval of the Abia Integrated WASH Accelerated Program (AIWAP) has set in motion the reactivation of several forgotten water schemes like the CKC Regional Water Scheme Aba and installation of new solar powered water and sanitation projects across urban and rural communities are quite commendable.

Your commitment to ensuring access to safe and potable water reflects a deep understanding of the essential needs of our people and a genuine dedication to public welfare.

Our dear Governor (Ekwueme Ndi Abia), your unwavering focus on efficiency, accountability, and service delivery continues to inspire us within the Ministry to align fully with your transformative vision for a greater Abia State.

As you celebrate another year of impactful life and service, we pray that God grants you renewed strength, wisdom, and good health to continue leading Abia State toward greater heights of progress and prosperity.

We wish you long life,  
Your Excellency.

Happy Birthday!

  
 Venerable Dr. Joshua Ogadinma Onyeike FCAI, FCIMC  
 General Manager ASOPADEC



Your Excellency, 18th day of February every year will ever remain remarkable in your life and humanity, as you are a special gift from God not only to your family but to mankind.

The Ministry of Power & Public Utilities Abia State joins the good people of our dear State in celebrating His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, on the joyous occasion of his birthday on 18th February 2026.

Your Excellency, your outstanding leadership and visionary governance have ushered a new era of transformation in the Power, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sectors of Abia State in less than three (3) years in office. Your administration has demonstrated uncommon resolve in addressing long-standing infrastructural challenges and laying a solid foundation for sustainable development.

Under your purposeful leadership, communities across the State have witnessed significant improvements in electricity supply through the provision and installation of transformers,

## News

### ASUU Rejects Controversial Promotion At MOUAU, Insists on Due Process

By Chukwuemeka Egejuru

**A**cademic Staff Union of Universities, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike (ASUU-MOUAU) branch, has clarified its position on the ongoing controversy surrounding staff promotion at Michael Okpara University of Agriculture (MOUAU), stating that the exercise contravenes the institution's 2017 Conditions of Service.

This was disclosed in a press statement jointly signed by the Chairperson, ASUU-MOUAU, Prof. Roseta C. Eneje, and the Secretary, Dr. Charles E. Osodeke, and made available to newsmen after its Congress on February 12, 2026.

The union said it was compelled to address the matter in order to set the record straight in the interest of the university and the general public.

ASUU-MOUAU maintained that the 2017 Conditions of Service for senior staff do not provide for double promotion. It questioned how a staff member currently holding the rank of Senior Lecturer could seek promotion directly to Professor without first attaining the rank of Associate Professor.

The union further stated that the extant 2017 Conditions of Service clearly stipulate that staff on leave of absence are not eligible for promotion, without exception or waiver. It described any demand for promotion during a period of leave of absence as a violation of the university's regulations.

According to the union, the 2017 Conditions of Service supersede the 2003 version, rendering the latter null and void. It stressed that the university cannot operate two different conditions of service simultaneously.

ASUU-MOUAU also noted that the staff member at the centre of the controversy was reportedly on leave of absence for seven uninterrupted years, from 2016 to 2023, whereas the 2003 Conditions of Service provided for a maximum of four years of leave.

The union called on the university to thoroughly investigate the processes that led to the recommendation for promotion to the rank of Professor during the period of leave. It recommended that the Departmental and College Appraisal Committees involved be queried to explain how their recommendations aligned with the existing Conditions of Service.

Additionally, ASUU-MOUAU urged the Governing Council to review all cases of staff promoted while on leave of absence, insisting that such promotions constitute violations of university regulations.

Recall that a Senior Lecturer at the university, Dr. Philips Nto, had petitioned President Bola Ahmed Tinubu over the alleged delay in approving his promotion to the rank of professor.

Nto accused the university's Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Comrade Fidelis Edeh, of withholding the release of his promotion, which he said was due in 2021. He appealed to the President to intervene and ensure that whenever the promotion is approved, it takes effect retrospectively from 2021.

The former Commissioner of finance in Abia state while addressing journalists, said he joined the university as an Assistant Lecturer in 2007, obtained his doctorate degree in 2009, and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2015. Based on academic progression standards, he maintained that he became eligible for promotion to professor in 2021.

He claimed that his contemporaries and some junior colleagues had since been elevated to professorial rank, leaving him allegedly excluded. According to him, while other promotions were approved "with the speed of light," his own was deliberately withheld.

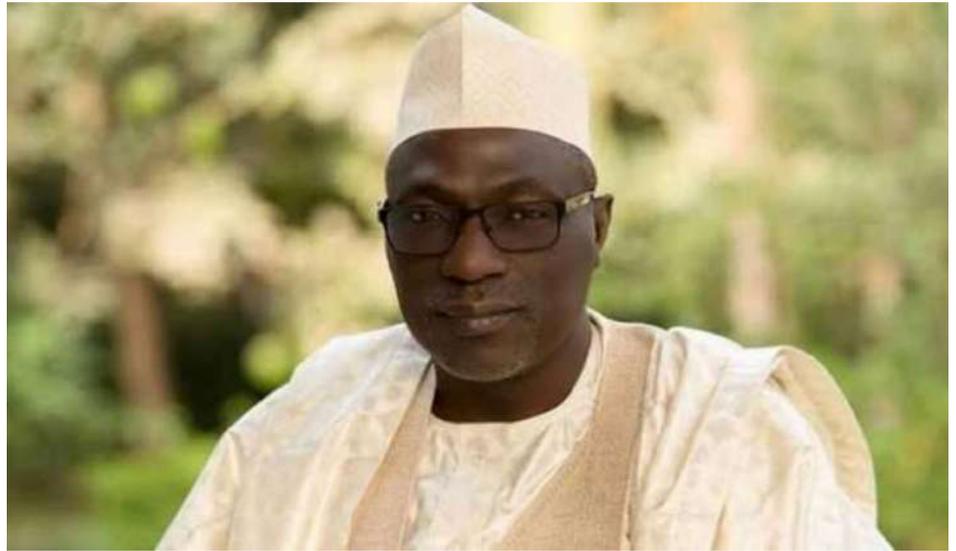
Reacting to the allegations, Edeh said he could not join issues with any staff member, noting that as Chairman of Council, he must remain neutral in matters brought before the Governing Council. He also questioned why the promotion, if due in 2021, was not effected before the current Council assumed office in 2024.

Edeh referred further comments to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, who assumed office in 2021 and chairs the university's Appointments and Promotions Committee.

In a related statement dated December 6, 2025, the university's Chief Public Relations Officer, Dr. Ubadire Agua, had denied claims of delayed or denied promotions. The statement insisted that under the current administration, no qualified staff member had been denied or delayed promotion.

The university explained that promotions follow a structured process beginning with the Departmental Appraisal Committee chaired by the Head of Department, then the College Appraisal Committee led by the Dean, and finally the University Appraisal Committee chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, before recommendations are forwarded to the Governing Council for approval.

The matter is yet to receive a formal response from the Presidency.



Former Governor of Kaduna State, Sen. Ahmed Makarfi

### Makarfi Advocates Visionary Leadership To Strengthen Nigeria's Security

By Amarachi Uzonkwa

**F**ormer Governor of Kaduna State, Sen. Ahmed Makarfi, has underscored the critical role of visionary and inclusive leadership in strengthening national security and governance in Nigeria.

Delivering a keynote address titled; "the role of leadership in strengthening national security and governance at the 70th birthday celebration of former Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Azubuike Onyeabo Ihejirika, in Umuahia, Sen Makarfi described leadership as the foremost ingredient for national development.

The former Kaduna State Governor stressed that effective leaders must embody vision, integrity, inclusivity and the capacity to inspire collective action.

He noted that leadership and national security are inseparable, particularly in a globalised world confronted by complex internal and external threats.

Sen. Mararfi while highlighting Nigeria's current security challenges including terrorism, insurgency, banditry and communal conflicts, called for intensified support and empowerment of the Armed Forces and other Security Agencies.

He urged Federal and State Governments to prioritise security funding, enhance intelligence gathering through closer engagement with communities and reduce non-essential expenditure in favour of strengthening national safety.

Sen. Makarfi emphasised that accessible and responsive leadership fosters trust, improves intelligence flow and reduces the likelihood of

communities resorting to self-help.

He advocated strategic communication, stakeholder engagement and the incorporation of indigenous knowledge systems in tackling insecurity and cautioned against excessive public discourse on sensitive security matters.

The former Kaduna State Governor who reflected on his tenure between 1999 and 2007, credited Lieutenant General Ihejirika, who served as a key member of the State Security Council during a turbulent period marked by ethno-religious crises, with playing a pivotal role that restored peace and stability in Kaduna.

He highlighted the implementation of structured security measures, including territorial strike force bases and regular Security Meetings, which

he said, helped transform the State's security landscape.

The former Kaduna State Governor described Gen Ihejirika as a disciplined, intellectually sound and responsive officer adding that his calm disposition and strategic insight contributed significantly to sustaining peace during a delicate phase in Nigeria's democratic journey.

According to Sen Makarfi, Ihejirika's legacy exemplifies "adaptive, principled and institutional leadership that strengthens both national security and governance", noting that his contributions remain firmly etched in Nigeria's military history.

Sen Makarfi wished the Retired General good health and sustained engagement in national discourse as he marks his 70th birthday.

The ceremony organized by the Abia State Government featured discussions on the topic; Strategies for Security and National Cohesion, and was attended by various dignitaries including Governor Alex Otti and wife, Lady Priscilla Otti, President Bola Tinubu, represented by the Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology, Dr Kingsley Udeh, Minister of Works, Sen. Dave Umahi, Minister of Defence, General Christopher Gwabin Musa (Rtd), Serving and retired Service Chiefs, Elder Statesman, Gen Ike Nwachukwu.

Others are; Former Minister of Mines and Steel Development, Uche Ogah, wife of the Deputy Speaker, Federal House of Representative, lady Ezinne Kalu, wife of the Ooni of Ife, among other dignitaries.

### AIG Uzuegbu Decorates Newly Promoted Officers

By Charles Ogbonnaya

**T**he Assistant Inspector-General of Police in charge of Zone 9, Kanayo Uzuegbu, recently decorated newly promoted officers at the Zonal Headquarters in Umuahia.

The ceremony, held at the AIG's office, was attended by senior police officers, family members, and well-wishers, who gathered to celebrate the officers' elevation to their new ranks

Among those honoured was ASP Israel Nkworie, promoted to the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP).

Representing the AIG, the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of Operations, Zone 9, DCP Uchenna Anioawo, congratulated the officers on their well-deserved promotions. He urged them to view their new ranks as a call to greater

service, dedication, and professionalism.

He reminded the officers that promotion carries increased responsibility and encouraged them to uphold the core values of the Nigeria Police Force, emphasizing discipline, loyalty, and commitment to protecting lives and property within the Zone. He stressed that integrity and accountability must remain their guiding principles.

Responding on behalf of the newly promoted officers, ASP Israel Nkworie of the Special Protection Unit (SPU), Base 9 Umuahia, expressed gratitude to God and the leadership of the Force for recognizing their efforts.

He pledged that they would redouble their efforts and justify the confidence placed in them.

The ceremony also attracted the presence of ACPs of the Zonal Command and the Commander of SPU Base 9, Umuahia, and concluded with goodwill messages and photo sessions to mark the memorable occasion.

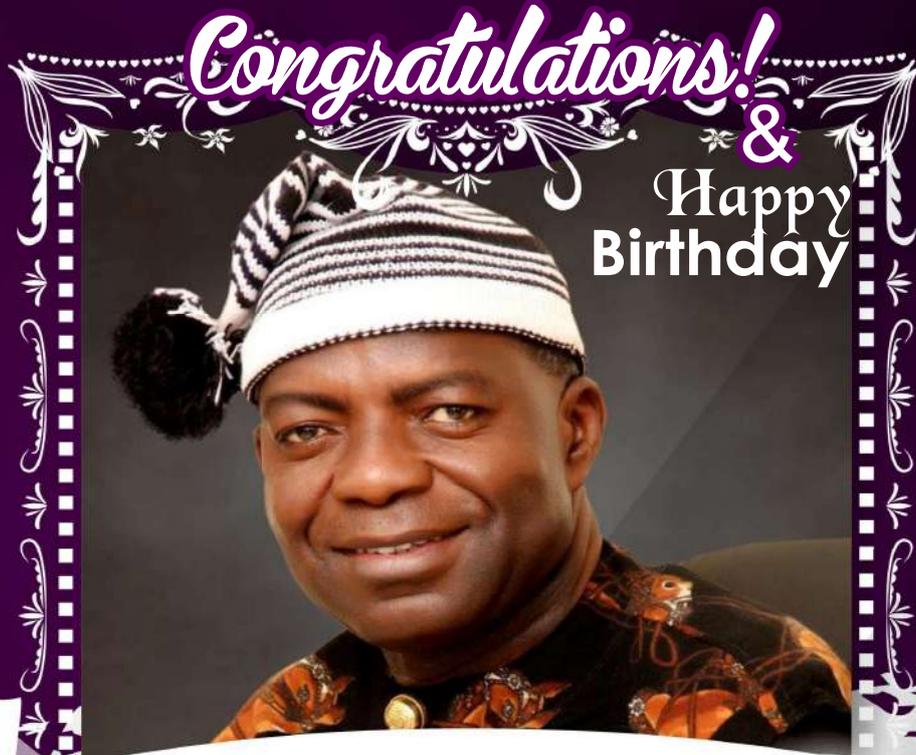


**Abia State Government**  
 Ministry of Health

**Abia State Hospitals Management Board (HMB)**

Ref. No:

Date



**TO A GRATE A MAN**  
**Dr. Alex Chioma OTTI (OFR)**  
**EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE**

Congratulations and happy birthday to a great man. You are a rare breed and one in a trillion.

Our dear Governor, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti OFR, we thank you for being a leader who keeps promises. Your commitment to paying salaries and allowances on time shows you care about the people who serve our state. Your worker-friendly approach is making a real difference. This is appreciated so much because it gives heads of parastatals the backing to encourage a productive workforce. Our prayer is that the Lord will help you to continue leading with integrity and compassion.

We pray for many more fruitful years in robust health.

We appreciate you greatly, Sir.

**Signed**

**Dr Nwamaka O. Kamanu**  
 CMD  
 General Hospital Aba



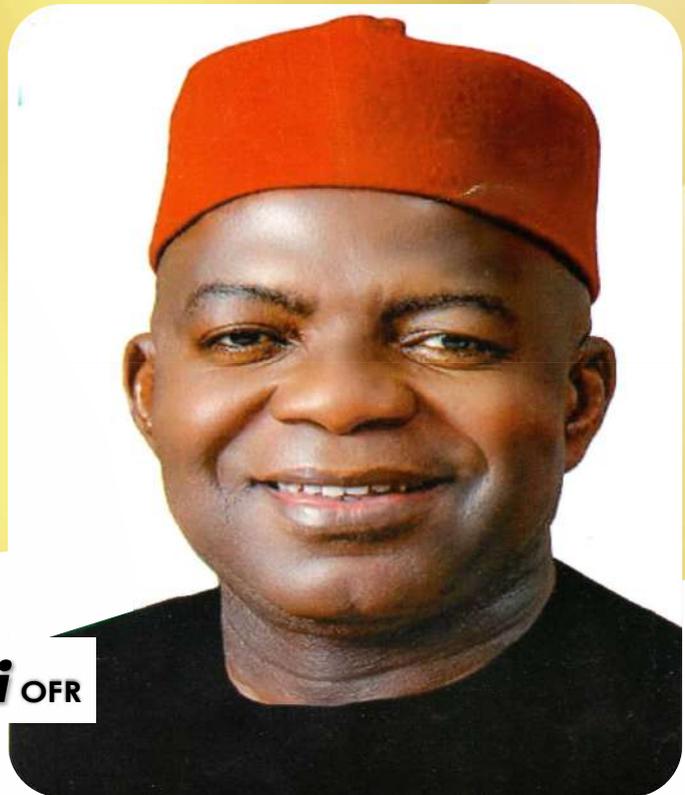


32, New Umuahia Road Ogborhill Aba  
08129189744  
camelacompanyogbo@gmail.com

***Congratulations!***  
**To A  
Transformational  
Leader**



**Dr. Alex Chioma Otti** OFR  
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE



The Board, Management & Staff of Camela Construction And Deco hereby felicitate with the Transformational Leader, A Trail Blazer And The Peoples Governor His Excellency Dr. Alex Chioma Otti on his Birthday

Your Excellency Sir, we wish to particularly thank you for building and establishing an enabling environment for businesses to thrive as well as rebuilding Aba the Enyimba City into a miracle centre of commerce and innovation.

We pray God to continually grant his grace, mercies and protection in Jesus Name, Amen

Once Again a hearty congratulation.

**Signed**



**Prince Nwadike**  
Chairman


 NATIONAL  
**Ambassador**  
 "Uplift the people, project the nation"

# Celebrating

## A GREAT LEADER

HIS EXCELLENCY  
**Dr. Alex Chioma OTTI (OFR)**  
 EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE

@ **61**  
**Anniversary**



The Management and Staff of Abia Newspapers and Publishing Corporation, warmly celebrate a great leader on the occasion of his 61st birthday.

Today, we honor a man known for his honesty, hard work, and dedication to serving the people.

At 61, HE Dr. Alex Otti continues to demonstrate strong leadership as well as a firm commitment to the growth and development of Abia State.

Your focus on transparency, accountability, and sustainable development are values that will outlive your administration.

Under your leadership, Abia State is

experiencing uncommon transformations and new opportunities.

As you celebrate this special day, we commend your achievements and your selfless service to the State and humanity.

May God bless you with good health, wisdom, strength, and many more fruitful years.

Happy 61st Birthday,  
 Your Excellency!

We wish you an even brighter and more successful years ahead.



**Mazi Jones Nnanna Ike**  
 General Manager/Editor-In-Chief  
 Abia Newspapers and Publishing Corporation

Feature

# Senate And The Electoral Act Amendment

By Reuben Abati

The Senate returns from a two-week recess today to attend an emergency plenary session at noon to address the lingering and vexed matter of the ongoing amendment of the Electoral Act 2022. Expectations are high. Opinions are divided as to what may well be the outcome of today's meeting. Since the return to civilian rule in 1999, Nigerians have been fixated on the subject of how to arrive at the best electoral framework that would guarantee free, fair, and credible elections, and yet before and after every election cycle, this has remained a knotty problem, if not an elusive target. It should not be surprising therefore that the people have found themselves again at the same crossroads. By September 2025, the Senate and House of Representatives Committees on Electoral Matters opted to retain the positive aspects of the existing law of 2022, while adding new provisions. Both committees relied on recommendations from technical experts in civil society groups such as the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), the Civil Society Situation Room, the European Union Election Observation Mission and others. By October 2025, public hearings had been held. In November 2025, the House of Representatives passed its amendments to the Electoral Act 2022, awaiting the process to be seen through at the Senate.

By last week, the Senate finally completed the process of receiving and reviewing the submissions of its own Committee on Electoral Matters. It was at this point, with time running out before the next general elections, that the process ran into trouble. First, the Senate Electoral Matters Committee could not present its report because its Chair, Senator Simon Lalong, was absent on the day of the presentation. The Senate then set up an Executive Committee to review the submissions. This was followed by a seven-man ad hoc committee, then a closed Executive session to further scrutinize the amendments, clause by clause. By this time, Nigerians were beginning to smell a rat. It is common knowledge that when Nigerian leaders are up to a certain mischief, the easiest thing they do is to resort to the committee approach, one after the other until the main issue is lost in translation. In the instant case, the proposed fresh provisions in the Senate's draft amendment were straightforward enough viz: a clause to give INEC the power to transmit election results electronically, tougher penalties for electoral offenders, electronically generated voter identification, the right of prisoners to vote, early voting for groups whose election day duties prevent them from voting, review of the time before election that the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) commences the election process and the release of election funds at least one year before polling day.

On Wednesday, February 4, the Senate voted on the various provisions, but it ignited public outrage by voting to retain the ambiguous provision in Clause 60 of the 2022 Electoral Act which leaves the mode of result transmission entirely at the discretion of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). This has resulted in sheer censure, and the erosion of the integrity of the Senate in the eyes of a skeptical electorate. The Senate leadership has had to explain that it did not remove electronic transmission, and that rather than the phrase "transfer" in Section 60(5) in the extant law, the Senate has now voted for "transmit". Senator Enyinmaya Abaribe (Abia South) at a press conference attended by members of the Minority Caucus said this was done collectively to ensure clarity, conciseness and lack of ambiguity. His attempt to calm the brewing storm had little effect. What the people heard was that the

Senate rejected the more popular request that there should be real-time mandatory electronic transmission of results from polling units to the INEC Election Results Viewing (IREV) portal. The subsequent explanation by the Senate President Godswill Akpabio was that the intention of the lawmakers is to prevent a deluge of litigations before and after the electoral process from communities and stakeholders whose constituencies lack the infrastructure for real time, electronic transmission. Last weekend, Senator Akpabio, at an event, reportedly said that electronic transmission cannot be imposed on places affected by network coverage or insecurity - referring to at least nine states in question. At another event, the INEC Chairman Professor Joash Amupitan cautioned Nigerians against "unnecessary tension over the Senate's decision," and urged that the people should wait for the harmonization of the bill by both Chambers. According to him, "INEC is committed to deploying technology... What matters is the technical efficiency of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System

Nigerians, especially the opposition party leaders, believe that without real time electronic transmission, they do not stand a chance, and that the election would have been rigged even before it took place. They see this as a blow to democracy. Professional bodies like the Nigerian Bar Association have also called for real-time electronic transmission of results. This real time furore has taken attention away from other details in the amendments which may still come to light sooner than later. This may well be the beginning of a very long conversation.

But given the present urgency, the Senate in convening today must refrain from annoying the people further by setting up yet another committee to look into the matter. It should seek to meet the people half-way by expressly stating that electronic transmission will be allowed, and reassure the people that it has nothing against the use of technology. It also owes the people further clarifications as to the key contents of the bill. Given our circumstances however, it would seem that a hybrid formula would be the best option. Real time transmission of results is the norm

kind of aspiration to ensure that the people's votes count. But there is a problem that we seem to be overlooking. What we have at the moment is manual voting, not electronic voting. Where people vote electronically, their votes are automatically recorded in the main server and tallied centrally, but even in those countries there are both advantages and disadvantages, compelling many to abandon the e-process altogether. It is also a very expensive option. Electronic voting or internet voting is not a deus-ex-machina, an automatic solution to electoral fraud, not to talk of electronic transmission of results. It works in Brazil where e-voting was adopted nationwide in the 2000 and 2002 elections, but it was first tested for four years. In Canada, e-voting is used only in some municipalities. Estonia uses e-voting in national elections. E-voting has been tried in parts of Japan too, but it was abandoned at a point due to cost, the antics of malicious insiders inserting crafted data or programmes to manipulate results as well as the burden of technical and legal challenges. Can Nigeria afford the same cost? The aspiration to move in the direction of electronic elections, both voting and transmission can only be achieved long-term after trials to master the processes involved. Are we willing to learn from the examples in other jurisdictions, and not simply jump into fire? Who will check the malicious insiders and outsiders?

The current system of voting in Nigeria is manual which means that on election day, voters thumbprint ballot papers which are counted at the polling stations, manually recorded, and then the result is taken to the collation centre where the results are announced and then transmitted to INEC. It is still basically a manual process. The problem is the fraudulent hijack of results between the polling units and the collation centres. The copy of results sent to the INEC's IREV portal from polling units is merely for viewing. IREV is not a collation centre; it is a viewing portal, and that is why our courts rely on Form ECSA, and do not accept IREV evidence. The Supreme Court in *Atiku v. INEC (2023) 19 NWLR* ruled that "The INEC Result Viewing Portal (IREV) is not a collation system. There is a difference between a collation system and the IREV portal though both are part of the election process. Whereas the collation system is made up of the centres where results are collated at various stages of the election, the IREV Portal is to give the public the opportunity to view the polling unit results on the election day. They are part of the election process" per John Inyang Okoro, JSC. The Supreme Court went further to uphold the power of INEC to prescribe the manner of transmission of election results, and the importance of hard copies of the result sheets. This National Assembly has shown no inclination to review the powers of INEC in this regard.

Electronic transmission of results is desirable but should it be mandatory, real time and is Nigeria ready? These are the two central questions of the moment. We can only insist, however, on starting from somewhere - possibly how to start with building blocks. This whole debate about electronic transmission of results is useful, but it is very much like a battle of wits between the armed robber and the owner of the property. The armed robber would always attempt to steal but the property owner also has an obligation to make the task difficult for the robber by putting safeguards in place. Neither party trusts the other. How, then, do we build a nation without trust, and without proper orientation? The best electoral framework can be designed with good intentions; it would take more than an amended Electoral Act to prevent electoral fraud.

**Some commentators have condemned the excuses about network coverage, cybersecurity, rural connectivity and insecurity in the land.**

(BVAS)" which he calls "a game changer.

Today, the Senate would reconvene, obviously in affirmation of the Senate President's position that the National Assembly has not yet concluded its work on the Bill, and that there is still the Votes and Proceedings stage, which is exactly the stage at which the Senate reviews its votes and passes the Bill, before presenting it for harmonization at a Joint Conference of the National Assembly. Many Nigerians had felt offended by the Senate President's boastful remark over the weekend that the Senate "cannot be intimidated" and that the job of the legislature is to do what is right to advance democracy. But now that the Senate has had to recall itself from recess, for an urgent meeting, it is obvious that the Senate is fully aware of the objections to the vote on February 4. It shows that it has heard the various civil society leaders who have advised the National Assembly "not to play with fire", those who have threatened to #OccupyNASS and who actually have shown up at the National Assembly, even as it rained yesterday, to protest, those who have threatened to embark on mass action like the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) to frustrate the 2027 elections before, during and after, or call for a general boycott of the elections if the Senate fails to add the phrase "real time". The problem is the phrase "real time" and the objections stem from a fundamental lack of trust in state institutions - be it the National Assembly or INEC. Most

in countries where technology is already advanced, and there are electronic systems in place that are fast, transparent, and free of compromise; even more importantly where both the people and the politicians trust the system. The debate over real time transmission of election results is actually a reflection of our state of development in terms of both values and best practices. Some commentators have condemned the excuses about network coverage, cybersecurity, rural connectivity and insecurity in the land. They argue that digital banking, telcos, and mobile money all work in Nigeria, and that the ruling party only wants to preserve itself in office. The truth beyond the politics, however, is that there are serious problems with all these platforms. Insecurity is also a problem. Who has never experienced the telcos failing real time? One particular network was out of operation for months in parts of the country! Who has not heard of banks complaining about their systems being down, and money transferred real time not reaching the beneficiary until days later, causing friction between the sender and the recipient? Insecurity is also real in Nigeria: how do you transmit election results real time in places where both electricity and telecommunication infrastructure have been pulled down by insurgents and bandits? How do you even vote in places where terrorists also have their own election management structures, enforced by guns that impose violence real time?

The people's preference for real time electronic transmission of results is the right



## Abuja Digest

with Sophina Ovuike  
+2348037744514

### Loyalty to Me Cost Ex-Senator Federal Appointment — Wike

The Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, has disclosed that a former senator was denied a top federal appointment due to his perceived loyalty to him.

Wike made the revelation while addressing political stakeholders, where he spoke frankly about the implications of political alignment and the price some of his allies have paid amid Nigeria's recent political realignments.

According to the former governor of Rivers State, the unnamed ex-lawmaker was duly qualified and had been considered for the

position but was eventually dropped after influential figures allegedly objected to his close association with him.

"They blocked it," Wike said. "Not because he was not qualified, but because he was loyal to me."

The FCT minister explained that the former senator's steadfast support during politically turbulent periods became a disadvantage, as opponents viewed his loyalty as a threat to their interests.

He described the development as a reflection of the intense power struggles and

internal rivalries that often shape federal appointments, noting that merit is sometimes overshadowed by political considerations.

While he did not name those allegedly responsible, Wike stressed the need for fairness, inclusivity, and objectivity in governance, particularly in the selection of public office holders.

He also urged politicians to remain principled, warning that compromising one's convictions for political expediency could undermine democratic institutions.

The disclosure has generated reactions within political circles, with analysts describing it as further evidence of deep-seated divisions within Nigeria's political elite.

As of the time of filing this report, neither the affected former senator nor the Federal Government had issued an official statement on the matter.

### NLC Criticises FG Over N3 Tn On Power Subsidy

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has criticised the Federal Government over the reported expenditure of about ₦3 trillion on power subsidy arrangements, describing it as a policy that benefits vested interests rather than ordinary Nigerians.

In a statement issued on Monday, the labour union alleged that the continued subsidy regime in the electricity sector amounts to a transfer of public wealth to a select group of operators, while citizens grapple with poor power supply, rising tariffs and declining living standards.

"Our commonwealth is not meant for the cartel," the NLC said, warning that public funds intended for national development were being channelled through opaque and poorly structured subsidy mechanisms.

The Congress questioned the rationale behind committing trillions of naira to subsidise a sector that has already been privatised, noting that Nigerians were promised improved efficiency, accountability and better service delivery following power sector reforms.

According to the NLC, despite repeated financial interventions by the government, electricity generation, transmission and distribution have shown limited improvement. Consumers, it added, continue to face erratic supply, high tariffs and estimated billing practices.

It called on the Federal Government to disclose full details of the reported ₦3 trillion subsidy, including its beneficiaries, payment framework and legal basis. It insisted that transparency and accountability are essential in managing public resources.

The union also urged the government to redirect funds towards critical sectors such as infrastructure, healthcare, education and job creation, rather than sustaining what it described as "economic rent-seeking" within the power industry.

Warning of growing public discontent, the NLC said failure to address alleged corruption and inefficiency in the electricity sector could further exacerbate poverty and social instability.

The congress reaffirmed

its commitment to defending workers and the wider Nigerian populace, maintaining that any policy perceived to enrich a few at the expense of millions would continue to attract organised resistance.

As of the time of filing this report, the Federal Government had not issued an official response to the allegations.

#### Change Of Name

I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Akparaja Queen Ebere, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. AZUOGU QUEEN EBERE. All documents bearing my former names remain valid. The general public should please take.

MRS. AZUOGU QUEEN EBERE.

#### Change Of Name

I, formerly known and addressed as Ulu Johnson Arunsi, now wish to be known and addressed as UDONSI JOHNSON MICHAEL as referenced on the Deed Poll dated 9th February, 2026. All documents bearing my former names remain valid. The general public should please take note.

UDONSI JOHNSON MICHAEL.

## News

### 'My Weakness' Is A Sacrifice For Peace In Rivers - Fubara

From Nzeuzor Jane and Maduagwo Jane, PH

Governor of Rivers State, Sir Siminalayi Fubara, has said his decision to appear "weak" amid the protracted political tension in the state was a deliberate sacrifice aimed at preserving peace and stability.

Fubara made the remark on Friday, in Lagos while receiving the New Telegraph Man of the Year Award. He dedicated the honour to God, the people of Rivers State and the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Chief Nyesom Wike, whom he described as his political benefactor.

According to the governor, what some perceive as weakness is, in reality, a conscious choice made in the interest of the state and the nation.

"Today is a special day for me and for everyone who believed in me. Some people call it weakness; others see it as strength. For many reasons, I chose to be weak — weak because I want peace, weak because we need to survive, and weak because I want to protect what is dear not just to me but to our nation. Weakness is a virtue; it pays at the right time," he said.

Fubara acknowledged the role played by the FCT Minister, Chief Nyesom Wike, in his political rise, noting that it was Wike who discovered and elevated him.

"Interpret it or misrepresent it, I must also dedicate this award to my



Governor of Rivers State, Fubara

Oga, the Honourable Minister of the FCT, Chief Nyesom Wike, who discovered me despite the situation. That discovery gave me this platform," he stated.

The governor also expressed gratitude to God Almighty, his family and the people of Rivers State for their patience and maturity during the political challenges confronting the state.

He commended New Telegraph for the recognition, noting that being selected among over 200 million Nigerians was a significant honour.

In his remarks, former Ogun State Governor, Chief Olusegun Osoba, congratulated Governor Fubara and other award recipients for their

contributions to national development.

Earlier, the Chairman and Publisher of New Telegraph, Senator Orji Uzor Kalu, said the awards were conferred strictly on merit.

He explained that recipients were selected based on tangible contributions to national development, not partisan considerations.

Kalu added that the recognition was intended to encourage awardees to deepen their service to humanity and sustain efforts toward Nigeria's advancement.

Governor Fubara was accompanied to the event by a large delegation of Rivers elders, political leaders, stakeholders and supporters.

### Aba South Launches Measles, Rubella Vaccination Campaign

From Chinedu Kelechi, Aba

The Abia State Government has launched a statewide measles and rubella (MR) vaccination campaign aimed at protecting children against two highly contagious viral diseases known to cause severe illness, birth defects and death.

The campaign, was officially flagged off recently, by the wife of the governor, Mrs. Priscilla Otti. In Aba South. The exercise was inaugurated a day later by the Mayor's wife, Mrs. Akudo Precious Obialor.

The Health Authority Secretary (HAS) for Aba South, Mrs. Uchechi Enyinnaya, said the exercise has recorded steady progress, with vaccination teams deployed to schools and communities across the area.

She, however, noted a minor challenge at Umuagbai Primary School, Nkwongwa, where a teacher allegedly discouraged the exercise by making unverified claims about the safety of the vaccine. Mrs. Enyinnaya described the claims as unfounded, adding that the matter has been reported to the Education Secretary and the Nigeria Union of

Teachers (NUT) Chairman in Aba South for necessary action.

She also cited low turnout in some locations, attributing it to parental hesitancy influenced by faith-based and socio-cultural beliefs.

She explained that the vaccine targets children between nine months and 14 years, considered the most vulnerable age group.

According to her, the vaccine is administered intra-dermally to stimulate the body's immune response and provide protection against measles and rubella.

Vaccinated children are issued vaccination cards, while their left thumbs are marked with indelible ink to ensure proper identification during the exercise. She added that children who are ill are temporarily exempted until they recover.

Describing the exercise as a vital public health intervention, Mrs. Enyinnaya said vaccination remains the most effective way to prevent measles and rubella.

# Happy **61<sup>ST</sup>** Birthday

His Excellency,  
**GOVERNOR ALEX OTTI!**

On this special day, we celebrate not just your life, but your visionary leadership that continues to transform Abia State. From modern roads and improving electricity to the revitalisation of sports, your dedication and unwavering commitment inspire us all.

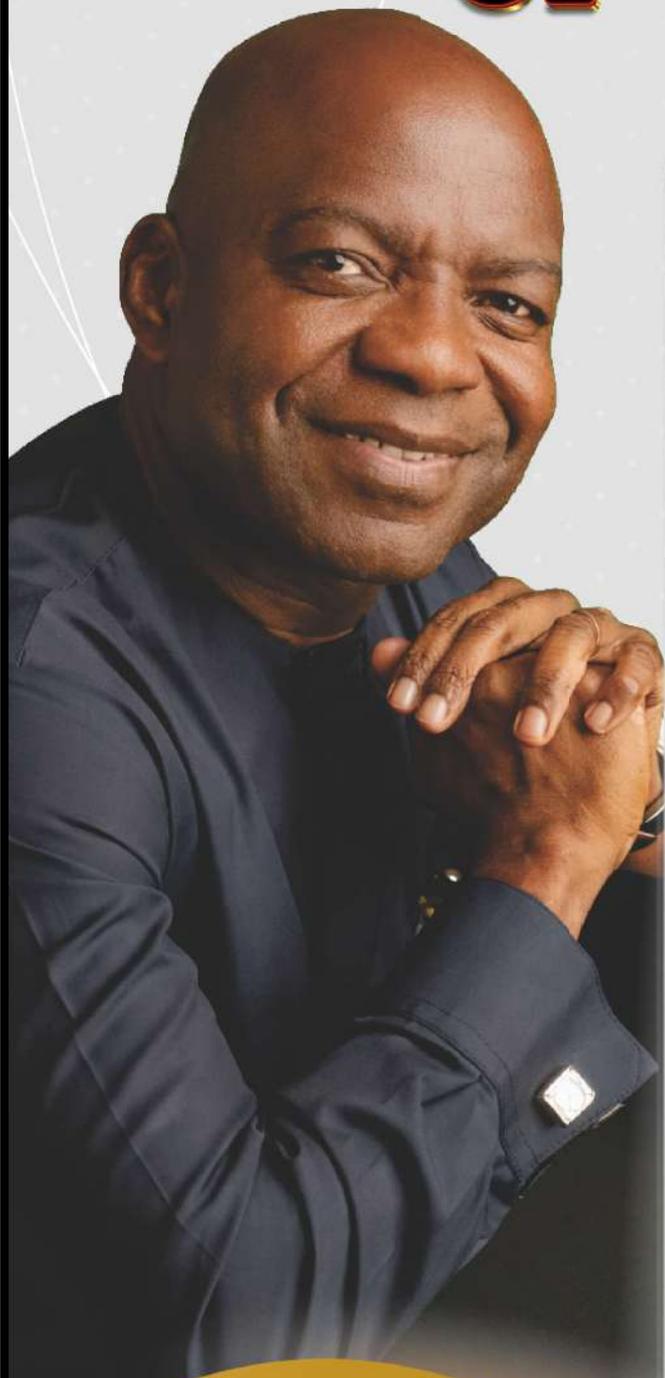
Your actions speak powerfully: the organization of secondary and tertiary school sports competitions, sustained sponsorship of Abia athletes at national and international levels, and the construction of an international stadium in Umuahia. Your inclusive development agenda - especially the Umuchiakuma-Achara-Okpo-Umuzongbo-Obinto (Ihechiowa Ring) Road demonstrates compassionate and people-centered leadership that leaves no community behind.

We Abians in the Diaspora feel a renewed sense of pride and dignity because of your effective stewardship. Today, we proudly raise our heads high, confident in our heritage and optimistic about our future.

May this new year of your life bring you greater accomplishments, sound health, and lasting fulfillment.

With highest regards and warm congratulations,

**Victor Okorie**  
Abia State Athletics Chairman  
South East Representative  
AFN Performance Director  
President & CEO, Sports ARCHITECT  
President & CEO, USA FREE EDUCATION





	Rate	Tax 5%	Vat 7.5%	Total
FULL PAGE COLOUR	N 500,000.00	25,000.00	N37,500.00	N 562,500.00
FULL PAGE BLACK & WHITE	N 450,000.00	N 22,500.00	N 33,750.00	N 506,250.00
HALF PAGE COLOUR	N 350,000.00	N17,500.00	N 26,250.00	N 393,750.00
HALF PAGE BLACK & WHITE	N 300,000.00	N 15,000.00	N 22,500.00	N 337,500.00
QUARTER PAGE	N 200,000.00	N 10,000.00	N15,000.00	N 225,000.00
Change Of Name	N 7,000.00	N 350.00	N 525.00	N 7,875.00



PUBLISHED BY:

**Abia Newspapers & Publishing Corporation**

Nnamdi Azikiwe Secretariat Road, Government Station Layout, Umuahia

☎ 09154423968 ✉ nationalambassadorngr@gmail.com 🌐 www.nationalambassadorngr.com

**News**

**Police Dismiss 3 Officers Over Robbery, Kidnapping In Imo**

**I**mo State Police Command has dismissed three of its officers for their involvement in armed robbery, kidnapping and car snatching in Owerri.

The dismissed officers were identified as Sgt. Ekwueme Gift, Sgt. Eto Ikechukwu and Cpl. Divine Ogwuaru. They were found guilty following an orderly room trial which established their culpability in the offences, including impersonation.

A civilian accomplice, identified as Elias Chukwu, who allegedly acted as the driver during the operation, has also been charged alongside the dismissed officers.

According to police sources, the suspects carried out the criminal act on February 8, 2026, along Mbaise Road in Owerri, where they reportedly robbed residents at gunpoint and snatched a vehicle. The stolen vehicle was later tracked to the Owerri-Onitsha Road as the suspects allegedly attempted to dispose of it before they were apprehended.

Investigations revealed that the officers were not officially assigned for patrol on the day of the incident. They were said to have falsely presented themselves as members of the Tiger Base Unit of the Command while perpetrating the crime.

The offences were found to be contrary to Paragraph E (i) and (iii) of the First Schedule of the Police Act and Regulation 370, punishable under Regulation 371 of the Nigeria Police Act 2020, as amended.

The Commissioner of Police in the state, CP Audu Bosso, reiterated the command's zero tolerance for corruption and unprofessional conduct, directing the Legal Department to ensure the immediate arraignment of the suspects in court.

"It will no longer be business as usual for erring officers in this command. Any officer found culpable of misconduct or criminality will face the full weight of the law," Bosso stated.

The Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Henry Okoye, said the officers were swiftly apprehended, thoroughly investigated and summarily dismissed in line with extant laws guiding the conduct of personnel of the Nigeria Police Force.

Okoye added that the suspects would be charged to court to answer for the offences, stressing that the action underscores the Command's commitment to accountability, professionalism and restoration of public confidence.

He urged residents to report cases of police misconduct through the Command's Complaint Response Unit Desk line, assuring that all reports would be treated with strict confidentiality.

**Tinubu, Otti, Others Hail Ihejirika At 70**

*By Amarachi Uzoukwu*

**A**bia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, has congratulated the former Chief of Army Staff, Lt-Gen. Azubuike Ihejirika, on his 70th birthday, describing him as a symbol of bravery, courage and sacrifice.

Governor Otti said this on Friday night at a public lecture titled, "Leading Nigeria Forward: Strategies for Security and National Cohesion," organised by Abia Government, to mark Ihejirika's 70th birthday.

Ihejirika, a native of Ovim in Isuikwuato Local Government Area of Abia State, who was born on February 13, 1956, served as Nigeria's Chief of Army Staff from September 2010 to January 2014 and was the first Igbo officer to hold the position since the end of the Nigerian Civil War in 1970.

Speaking at the event held at the International Conference Centre Umuahia, which drew an array of dignitaries from across the country, including President Bola Tinubu, Senior Military officers (serving and retired), and captains of industry, among others, Governor Otti paid glowing tributes to Ihejirika's service, leadership and contributions to national security.

The governor said that Ihejirika's birthday was deliberately marked alongside the commissioning of landmark projects such as construction of the Omenuko Bridge and the 30 Kilometers Abam-Ndiokereke-Arochukwu Road, to honour his



*Lt Gen. Ihejirika*

service and commitment to the state and nation.

He said politics should prioritise service over personal interests and that leadership must challenge entrenched norms, noting that Ihejirika's steadfast commitment to the collective interest of Abians has earned him enduring respect.

The governor said that Ihejirika was appointed Chairman of the Abia State Security Council on merit and that his contributions had strengthened security within the state.

He urged public office holders to serve diligently, stressing that the opportunity to lead demands integrity and

courage.

In his speech, President Bola Tinubu, represented by the Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology, Dr Kingsley Uche, described Ihejirika as, "a patriot, courageous general, Pan-Nigeria and a fine gentleman", who served Nigeria at a very turbulent period in the war against insurgency and acquitted himself very credibly.

President Tinubu prayed God to grant the celebrant for good health and long life so that the nation would continue to

draw from his wealth of experience in the ongoing fight against insecurity.

He reaffirmed the Federal Government's commitment to inclusive leadership within the nation's security architecture, noting that Ihejirika was the last Service Chief from the South-East before his administration assumed office on May 29, 2023.

President Tinubu said he appointed Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ogalla as Chief of Naval Staff on June 19, 2023, and Air Marshal Sunday Aneke as Chief of Air Staff in October 2025, noting that the appointments reflected deliberate efforts to promote national cohesion.

He called for unity, stressing that Nigeria's diversity should strengthen rather than divide the country.

Also, the Minister of Defence, Gen. Christopher Musa, recounted professional encounters with Ihejirika, describing him as a leader who mentored officers and strengthened operational strategies, including the introduction of long-range patrols which influenced his own command approach.

Contributing, the

Minister of Works, Sen Dave Umahi, described Ihejirika as a man of integrity and courage who promoted officers strictly on merit, saying that his tenure addressed perceived marginalisation and strengthened institutional fairness.

Sen Umahi called for unity in the South-East, urging leaders to avoid divisive rhetoric and support development initiatives.

The Chief of Army Staff, Lt-Gen. Waidi Shaibu, represented by the Chief of Standard and Evaluation for the Nigerian Army, Maj-Gen. Thompson Ugiagbe, described Ihejirika as a man whose life has been marked by service and whose contributions significantly enhanced national security.

He urged residents of the South-East to support the Nigerian Army with timely intelligence and cooperation.

Earlier, the sister of Ihejirika, Mrs Oluchi Chigbu, described her brother as a beacon of hope and pillar of support to the Ihejirika family and prayed God to bless him with good health, long life and greater blessings in the years ahead.

In his remarks, Ihejirika thanked God for preserving his life and enabling him to witness the milestone. He said he was overwhelmed by the turnout of over 200 generals and numerous officers at the celebration.

The retired lieutenant-general recalled early mentorship from senior officers who guided and prepared him for military service, adding that the mentorship instilled confidence and discipline that shaped his military career.

He described missing promotion from lieutenant-colonel to colonel as a setback that later influenced his eventual appointment as Chief of Army Staffs, adding that he survived several accidents unharmed, which he attributed his survival to divine providence.

Ihejirika said that he never viewed his career through the lens of ethnicity or marginalisation, noting that he rose to occupy virtually every key command position open to an army officer.

He urged Nigerians to rise above divisive sentiments and embrace unity and emphasised that genuine national cohesion remains the bedrock for sustainable progress and development.

The birthday celebration, chaired by Maj-Gen. Ike Nwachukwu (retd), featured a keynote address by the former Governor of Kaduna State, Sen. Ahmed Makarfi, and was attended by former Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Lucky Irabor (retd), former Chief of Army Staff, Lt-Gen. Abdulrahman Dambazua (retd), numerous retired service chiefs, service commanders and dignitaries from all walks of life.

**2027 Polls: Ohuhu People Endorse Otti's Ambition, Seek Urgent Intervention On Roads, Water, Hospital**

*By Chike Emelike and Amarachi Uzoukwu*

**S**takeholders and people of Ohuhu in Umuahia North Local Government Area of Abia State have formally declared their support for the future political aspiration of Governor Alex Otti, stating that his administration has "rewritten the story of Abia State for the better".

The endorsement was made during an enlarged solidarity visit by over 2,000 indigenes of Ohuhu to Governor Otti at the Michael Okpara Auditorium, Umuahia recently.

Leader of the delegation and member representing Ikwuano/Umuahia Federal Constituency, Chief Obi Aguocha, in his speech said the visit was to appreciate Governor Otti for his longstanding relationship with the people of Ohuhu especially, Chief Onyema Ugochukwu, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and Aham Uko and for his administration's impactful interventions in the area.

He commended the governor for appointing several sons and daughters of Ohuhu land into key federal and state positions, including Chief Victor Ikeji as Federal Commissioner representing Abia State in the Federal Character Commission; Mr Chinenye Mba Uzoukwu as Principal Secretary and Chief Strategist to the State Government and Sir Chris Onwuegbu as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, among others.

Chief Aguocha drew the governor's attention to critical infrastructure needs in the area, particularly the rehabilitation of the Ohuhu King Road and the Okpara Road traversing Amaogwugwu, Umuagu and Ofeme down to Isuikwuato.

He also urged the state government to revitalise the Ulonna North and South Farm Settlements established by the late Premier of Eastern Nigeria, Dr Michael Okpara.

Other stakeholders who spoke at the event, including a former Chairman of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), and the former Editor of the Daily Times, Chief Onyema Ugochukwu; Chief Uzodinma Okpara; and the member representing Umuahia North State Constituency, Anderson Akaliro, commended Governor Otti

for transforming the Michael Okpara Auditorium into a world-class facility.

The stakeholders also lauded the administration's intervention at Ohuhu Community Secondary School and other development projects in the area.

They, however, highlighted the long-standing water challenges confronting the community and called for the resuscitation of the Ohuhu Regional Water Scheme, appealing for the completion and operationalisation of the Ohuhu General Hospital built by the late Dr Michael Okpara at Umuegwu Okpuala.

Responding, Governor Otti, who thanked the people of Ohuhu for their solidarity visit, endorsement and continued support, also acknowledged the contributions of Chief Onyema Ugochukwu and other leaders of the community.

On the water project, the governor disclosed that the Ohuhu Regional Water Scheme had been captured in the 2026 budget and assured residents that the Umuahia Regional Water Scheme would soon be flagged off for rehabilitation.

He added that work on the Aba Regional Water Scheme had reached about 80 per cent completion.

Governor Otti reiterated his administration's commitment to restoring potable water supply across the state, noting that his vision was to return Abia to "the good old days when people had running water in their homes".

He also promised to look into the Ohuhu General Hospital at Umuegwu Okpuala with a view to putting the facility into proper use and urged the people to actively participate in the ongoing voter registration exercise.

The event, which drew stakeholders from across party lines, featured prayers for the governor, his family and the state by traditional rulers from Ohuhu led by the Chairman, Ohuhu Council of Traditional Rulers Eze CC, Ngwuli and Eze Innocent Adiele Nwaigwe, the Chairman, Umuahia North Local Government Area Traditional Rulers and was attended by the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Information, Sir Chris Onwuegbu, the Vice-President of Ohaanaeze Ndigbo, Chief Okey Nwadinobi, among others.



Abia State Government  
Ministry Of Basic And Secondary Education

# Happy Birthday



TO HIS EXCELLENCY  
**HE Dr. Alex Chioma OTTI (OFR)**  
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE

— — — — — ▶ ◀ — — — — —

■ The Management and Staff of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education take pride in congratulating His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, on his birthday. Your dedication to the development of Abia State, particularly in the education sector, is a testament to your exceptional leadership.

■ We celebrate your birthday with joy and optimism, looking forward to continued progress under your leadership.

■ May your special day be filled with endless love and laughter.

■ **Signed**

■ **Hon. Goodluck Ubochi**  
Commissioner for Basic Education  
Abia State

■ — — — — — ▶ ◀ — — — — —



## Gov. Alex Otti @61



**Abia State Ministry Of Sports  
And Youth Development**



### **Happy Birthday, His Excellency Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR!**

On this special day, I, on behalf of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Development, celebrate a leader whose visionary governance has transformed Abia State into a beacon of progress. Your ingenuity in leadership has revitalized infrastructure, empowered youth, and championed sports development, fostering a thriving ecosystem for our young talents to shine.

Your achievements—from economic revitalization to educational advancement—have uplifted countless lives, inspiring hope and pride across Abia. Your commitment to youth empowerment and sports excellence has laid a foundation for future champions, and we are grateful for your unwavering support.

May this birthday usher in many more exciting years of health, wisdom, and impactful service. May your legacy continue to inspire generations, and may Abia State flourish under your guidance.

Here's to a remarkable leader shaping a brighter tomorrow. Happy birthday, Your Excellency, Chioma Ndi Abia —may your journey ahead be filled with joy, strength, and boundless success!

**Sir Nwaobilor Nwadinma Ananaba,**

Hon. Commissioner for Sports and Youth Development, Abia State

## NATIONAL UNION OF ROAD TRANSPORT WORKERS

ABIA STATE COUNCIL, UMUAHIA  
 (AFFILIATE OF NIGERIA LABOUR CONGRESS)

*Motto: Safety And Unity*



# Happy 61<sup>ST</sup> Birthday

TO HIS EXCELLENCY  
**Dr. Alex Chioma Otti** (OFR)  
 EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE



I Hon. CHUKWUMA AZODE (China), Chairman of NURTW, Abia State Council, and my indefatigable members are indeed grateful for a leader like you who prioritize the well-being of his people. Your dedication to Abia State's road infrastructures and transportation development is truly impactful.

Your administration has restored the hope and confidence of Abians through the building of topnotch infrastructural facilities which has placed Abia State and Abians very high on the global map.

Wishing you a healthy, happy, and fulfilling year ahead.

Signed

**Hon. AZODE CHUKWUMA (CHINA)**  
 CHAIRMAN NURTW ABIA STATE COUNCIL



# SUBSCRIPTION FOR NATIONAL AMBASSADOR NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINE



Staying informed about current events, news and trends has become more important in today's fast-paced world. Hence, being a leading and international news, events and developments platform, we ask for your patronage of our subscription services.

With our subscription-based services, our brand is committed to providing accurate, unbiased and informative reportage that will keep you informed and engaged.

**Advantages:**

- Weekly delivery of our print edition.
- Monthly delivery of our magazine.
- Unlimited access to our online edition.
- Access to our archives, featuring past editions and articles.

Subscribing to National Ambassador Newspapers and Magazine, guarantees unlimited access to:

- Comprehensive coverage of news, events and developments in Abia State and beyond.
- A valuable resource for research, reference and informed services.

Our offer is quite affordable for Government Ministries/MDAs, Private Sectors/Individuals.

We believe that our Newspaper and Magazine would be a valuable addition to your organization's Library or Information Centre.

Please see attached overleaf for your necessary action and thank you for considering our Proposal.

**1 NATIONAL AMBASSADOR NEWSPAPERS SUBSCRIPTION**

Price Per Newspapers = 250  
Monthly = 1000  
Yearly = 12000

Name:.....

Address:.....

Phone Number:..... E-mail:.....

**Payment System**

Quantity:..... Unit Cost:..... Total Cost:.....

Cash  Cheque  Transfer

All Paymentsshould be made in favour of Abia State TSA/Internally-Generated Revenue (IGR)

Agency (MDA) - Code: 23055011 - Revenue Code: 12040036

**2 NATIONAL AMBASSADOR MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION**

Price Per Magazine = 1500  
Monthly = 1500  
Yearly = 18000



PUBLISHED BY:

**Abia Newspapers & Publishing Corporation**

Nnamdi Azikiwe Secretariat Road, Government Station Layout, Umuahia.

09154423968 nationalambassadorngr@gmail.com www.nationalambassadorngr.com

# Sporting Ambassador


**AMBASSADOR**  
 With Jacob Joseph

## “Why CAF, FIFA Overlook Nigerian Referees” –Elder Nwogu, Abia Football Referees' Boss

By Joseph Jacob

**E**lder Ogunta Matador Nwogu is the Chairman of Abia State Football Referee's Council. He officiated in the Nigerian Premier Football League between 2003 and 2016, served as match commissioner and currently serves as a referee assessor. In this explosive interview, he bares his mind on salient issues about football officiating in Nigeria.

### Tell us briefly about yourself

My names are Elder Ogunta Matador Nwogu. I hail from Umuobiakwa, Obingwa LGA of Abia State. I was at Riverside Primary School, Wilcox Memorial Secondary School all in Aba. For higher education, I was trained at the Institute of Management and Technology (IMT) Enugu where I studied Applied Arts. As I speak, I serve as the chairman of Abia State Football Referees Council. Aside from football as a hobby, I am a businessman. I am married with lovely kids.

### How did you get involved with refereeing?

It was out of passion. I was very good at playing football, but when I could not go further, I decided to digress and join the arbiters.

### What is the biggest threat to football officiating in Nigeria in general and Abia State in particular? And how can this threat be neutralized?

### Can you be more specific about the facilities you were referring to? Most people would say the referees need only a whistle.

Everything in the world has gone technological and football officiating is not left out. We have VAR, Video Assistant Referee. As I speak to you, we don't have VAR in Nigeria. VAR was brought in to assist the referee make precise and correct decisions, but we don't have it in the country. There are also other facilities used for training. We don't have enough of them.

### The referees were praised in the penultimate AFCON for their excellent performance, but they were condemned at the last AFCON as there were so many controversies. Former French International, Thierry Henry said that CAF did not train the referees well enough to handle the pressures that came with officiating the matches. As a professional, are you satisfied with the officiating at the last AFCON?

Well, I will give them 80% because the referee is a human being in the first instance and that is why they brought in the VAR to support them in decision making. So if they had expected 100% from the referees they wouldn't have brought in the VAR and other gadgets to assist the referees. Most times we have the fourth official to support them in decision making. As a matter of fact, we must admit that the referee is a human being. But, what happened at the AFCON, as a referee, I wouldn't say they did not do well, most of the people analyzing the officiating are not referees, they always see things from their point of view. But, for me as a professional they didn't do badly.

### In recent times CAF and FIFA have not called up Nigerian referees for major competitions, what is the problem? Are Nigerian referees not qualified?

If you use the word qualification you may be correct. Referees who officiate at the AFCON are elite referees. For you to join the elite class you must have come from somewhere. It could be likened to where people register for secondary school from JS 1 and expected to graduate at SS 3. When referees join the queue as selected FIFA referees they pass through several processes to be rated as elites. People who are usually invited for such class of officiating are the elite class. Yes we have elite referees in Nigeria, unfortunately we have an issue with those who belong to



Elder Ogunta Matador Nwogu

that class in Nigeria. That is why they were not privileged to be invited for this AFCON. Remember that prior to now we have had referees officiate at the AFCON as centre and assistant referees.

### What is this issue among the elite class of Nigerian referees?

It is not FIFA that will come to Nigeria to select referees for us to be listed in FIFA Badge. Nigeria will be given the privilege to give them the best that we have, and we give them our best. Like I said, somebody could register his ward in JS1, and they're supposed to graduate at SS3. From that time, there could be issues on the way that may affect that person not graduating at the time others are graduating. Not that they are not good. Some could be medical, some could be injury, some could be psychological.

“  
 The biggest challenge we have is lack of infrastructure. As a matter of fact, refereeing is no longer a hobby, it is now a profession. But the facilities are not there on the part of technical development.

Another challenge is insecurity, which is a result of lack of understanding. The security of referees who officiate matches are not often guaranteed. If you are not sure you will go home alive, you will not give your best.”

They take examinations and they go for physical fitness. Just as they progress, some people drop on the way. We have people on the elite class in Nigeria too. If, for example, a referee fails to make the list, the referee will never come down to the lower ranking. Just to put it in perspective, as a matter of fact, not everybody that was invited to Morocco officiated. There can be a pool of referees, but at the end, they will select the best among the best.. So sometimes you may not be privileged to be selected. That does not mean that you are not good. But perhaps maybe they need five referees, and more than 30 were invited. Definitely some people will go to Morocco, do their training, and then they will still be dropped. So that is the challenge.

### Countries like Seychelles, Mauritius, Benin, have their referees at the AFCON. What can be done in the near future, to make Nigeria a powerhouse in football refereeing at least in Africa?

Have you watched these countries' leagues? We need to monitor their leagues. Like I said, it's developmental. As I speak to you, we don't have VAR in Nigeria. Now imagine a Nigerian referee going to officiate at Nations Cup, where VAR is used. And you are not used to it at home.

Let's assume they invited 50 referees. The Referees Committee don't know you as a person, they invited you because your name is in the elite list. When they go for courses, they will ask you, 'are you used to VAR in your country?' That's a minus for you. If we do not have these facilities, we cannot measure up with other referees from other countries. The VAR that we are not used to in Nigeria is a very, very big minus. So we need to bring VAR here, so that we can use it to train our referees, so that we will call measure up whenever we are contending for selection outside the shores of Nigeria.

### Where are Abia State referees in the national level?

We are the number one in Nigeria Football Referee Council. In terms of name, we are still number one. We have fine, quality referees. Even match assessors, match commissioners, we are all there. We are not lacking in any form at all. But the only thing I must confess, we need to have referees who are listed with FIFA badge. We had only one. And we are not happy about it. That's why we need support from the state government to consider as a project the need to prepare our referees so that when they go for FIFA badging, they will be listed. That's the only thing I must confess that we are lacking. But aside from that, in other competitions like the Nigerian Premier Football League, National League and Nationwide League we have referees. They are all there, fully represented.

### How many referees do you have in your council?

Yeah, in the council, we are more than 600. And we have nine Referee Societies. In each local government, we have a referee body that controls activities, we call them Societies. But remember, that's not the number of local governments we have in Abia State. So some local governments don't have referee societies. And it's a minus. That's why we are expecting that people should get interested in this matter. And not see referees as people coming from the moon. There's a need for us to have Referee Societies in each Local Government Area of the state. So we'll be able to harness talents. I'm sure those local government areas that don't have a Referee Society, have talented people who are interested in becoming referees. But how are they going to join? You don't join the referees at the council level; you join the referees at the society level. So if your local government doesn't have a referee society, you need to help. So it's very needful for us to replicate this society at every local government. So we will be able to catch our talent. And catch them young,

To be continued



- CONSTRUCTION
- HR & MANPOWER SERVICES
- PROCUREMENT
- SECURITY SERVICES

**HR Tech**  
**INDIA | NIGERIA**

HRTECH GLOBAL ASSOCIATES LTD  
1st Floor Bozzac Aluminum Complex  
Km - 43, Lekki EPE Express Way Lagos.  
09018510104, 07042765052

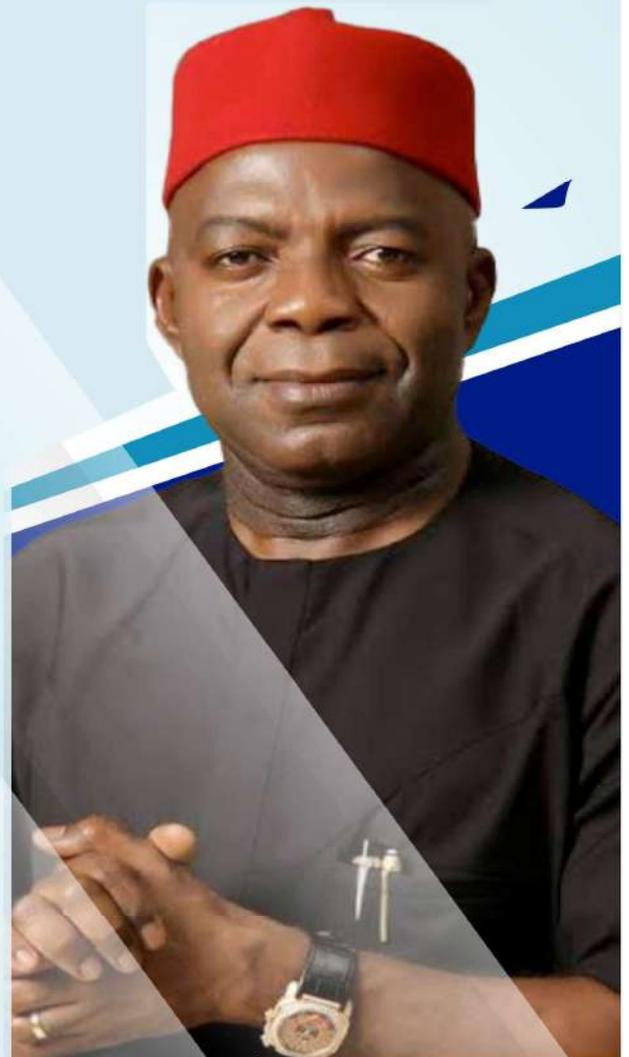
**Birthday**  
*Felicitation!*

TO THE PEOPLES GOVERNOR  
**Dr. Alex Chioma OTTI** (OFR)  
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE

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



**Mr Mishra Abani**  
Managing Director



# NATIONAL Ambassador

Special Edition N500 VOL. 28 NO.023

"Uplift the people, project the nation"

February 18, 2026.

[nationalambassadorngr](#) [nationalambassadorngr](#) [nationalambassadorngr](#) [Nationalambassador](#) [NationalAmb](#) [ireport@nationalambassadorngr.com](#) [www.nationalambassadorngr.com](#)



## AvenTech Resources Ltd

Global Procurements • Logistics • Agriculture • Administrative Support

+234 802 700 0959, +234 811 259 9755

RC NO: 197127

# Felicitation!

TO  
**Dr. Alex Chioma OTTI (OFR)**  
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE

On His **61<sup>ST</sup>**  
**Year**  
**Anniversary**



I, Chief Mrs. Ebere Nkele Agu, (Odi Uko Na Mba of Abam Onyerubi) and Managing Director, AvenTech Resources Ltd, hereby commend the "Ekwueme" Governor of Abia State, His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, on the occasion of his 61st Birthday Anniversary.

I wish to particularly thank you Sir, for the Commissioning of the Ozu Abam-Ndi Okereke-Arochukwu Road as well as the Omenuko Bridge

I, appreciate your Excellency for the numerous life changing projects-that have been executed in Abia State under your able leadership which has transformed our very dear State into a New Abia State-God's Own State.

At 61, you are just starting your purpose-driven life. As you have watered our lives, so shall everything and everyone that matters to you be evergreen.

Remain blessed and NEVER forgotten!

Onye Ishi Imela, Kaa Wooo!

We Pray God to protect and keep you in Jesus Name, Amen!

Signed.  
**Chief Mrs Ebere Nkele Agu**  
(Odi Uko Na Mba of Abam Onyerubi)

C.E.O  
AvenTech Resources Ltd

