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2027: Abia Holds Strategic Retreat For Govt Spokepersons

By Ebere Tasie

The two-day Strategic Media Retreat for spokespersons and media managers of the Abia State Government has ended in Abuja with a renewed call on media practitioners to uphold professionalism, ethical standards and

objective reporting as the country prepares for the 2027 general elections.

The retreat, organised by ChannelKooos, brought together government spokespersons and media aides to strengthen their communication skills and enhance their capacity to effectively manage public information in an evolving

media landscape.

Speaking with journalists at the close of the retreat, the Abia State Commissioner for Information, Prince Okey Kanu, said the programme was conceived to equip members of the state's media team with the knowledge and skills required to respond to the

changing dynamics of information management.

He expressed satisfaction with the quality of the sessions, noting that the retreat had enriched participants and positioned them to communicate government policies and programmes more effectively.

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Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti (front centre), alongside other delegates at the University of Northampton, United Kingdom, where he delivered the keynote lecture during the University's Annual Conference on Racial Justice.

Otti Advocates Unity, Inclusive Leadership at UK Racial Justice Conference

Governor Alex Otti of Abia State has urged leaders and citizens across the world to embrace dialogue, mutual respect and inclusive leadership as essential tools for overcoming racial and social divisions and building more peaceful societies.

He made the call while delivering the keynote address at the University of Northampton's Annual Conference on Racial Justice in the United Kingdom, an event that brought together academics, policymakers, students,

professionals and community leaders to deliberate on issues of race, equality and social justice.

Speaking on the conference theme, "Of Walls and Bridges: Finding Common Ground, Rising Above Divisions," the governor stressed that societies can only achieve lasting peace and sustainable development when people are treated with dignity, fairness and respect, irrespective of their race, religion, ethnicity or social background.

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Experts Call For Inclusive, Integrated Education Reform

By Ngozi Ndubuze

Stakeholders have called for bold reforms to reposition Nigeria's education system through innovation, inclusion and sustainable learning at the 3rd International Conference of the College of Education, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUAAU).

Speaking at the conference, the Secretary to the Abia State Government, Dr. Emmanuel Meribole, described education as the foundation of sustainable development, social transformation and economic prosperity. He reaffirmed the state government's commitment to improving the sector through free and compulsory basic education, the Abia First Education Transformation Programme and the establishment of smart schools to ensure equitable access to quality education.

Dr. Meribole, who chaired the event, commended the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ursula Akanwa, and the university management for providing a platform for intellectual engagement on the future of education. He described the conference theme, "Rethinking Quality Education: Innovative, Inclusive and Sustainable Learning from Early Childhood to Adulthood," as timely, stressing that no nation can rise above the quality of its educational system.

In her remarks, Prof. Akanwa said the conference theme reflected the urgent need to re-examine educational

systems in response to the social and economic realities of the 21st century.

She expressed confidence that the deliberations would produce innovative ideas and practical solutions to shape the future of education.

Delivering the keynote lead paper, the Dean, Faculty of Educational Foundation Studies, University of Calabar, Prof. Emmanuel Etta Ekuri, advocated an integrated approach to education reform. He identified learning poverty, digital inequality, teacher shortages and fragmented policy implementation as major obstacles to quality education, proposing an Integrated Systems Framework for Quality Education Across the Lifespan (ISF-QEL) to promote inclusive, lifelong learning and improved educational outcomes.

Also presenting a lead paper, legal scholar and education expert, Prof. Nnamdi Obikeze, called for stronger government commitment to inclusive education for learners with disabilities. He said despite existing legal and policy frameworks, implementation remains weak due to inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, shortage of trained teachers, limited assistive learning materials and persistent societal stigma. He urged increased investment, improved teacher training and stronger enforcement of inclusive education policies to ensure that no learner is left behind.

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Prince Kanu stressed that the media serves as the vital link between government and the people, urging media professionals to remain proactive before, during and after the 2027 general elections in order to prevent the spread of misinformation and avoid situations that could trigger crises.

He also underscored the importance of timely, factual and accurate

information dissemination as a critical tool for combating fake news and promoting public confidence.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Media and Publicity, Mr. Ferdinand Ekeoma, described the retreat as enlightening and impactful, saying participants had acquired fresh insights and practical skills for managing information and engaging the public more effectively.

Otti Advocates Unity

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He noted that while diversity remains one of humanity's greatest strengths, it should never become a basis for discrimination, exclusion or conflict. Rather, he said, differences should be harnessed to foster understanding, cooperation and shared progress.

Governor Otte maintained that conversations on race, identity and social differences should be driven by empathy and constructive engagement instead of hostility and confrontation. According to him, genuine social transformation cannot be achieved through anger or coercion but through dialogue, persuasion and exemplary leadership.

The governor further challenged political leaders, religious institutions, media organisations and civil society groups to deploy their influence in promoting peace, justice and national cohesion rather than encouraging division or exploiting societal differences for personal or political gains.

During the interactive session that followed the lecture, Governor Otte

responded to questions on leadership, governance, democratic accountability, Nigeria's development and the role of citizens in nation-building.

He encouraged Nigerians both at home and in the diaspora to remain optimistic about the country's future, insisting that Nigeria possesses the human capital and natural resources required to achieve sustainable development if leaders and citizens embrace integrity, accountability and collective responsibility.

The governor also urged young people and professionals to invest in education, discipline, innovation and continuous personal development. He stressed that excellence is determined not by race, social status or background but by vision, preparation, competence and hard work.

Participants at the conference commended Governor Otte's presentation, describing it as insightful, balanced and inspiring. Many noted that his message provided practical perspectives on fostering inclusive societies and strengthening global efforts toward racial justice and social harmony.

Experts Call For Inclusive, Integrated Education Reform

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Speaking virtually from Germany, Prof. Ebere Adimora advocated the transformation of Nigeria's education system to meet 21st-Century demands.

She stressed the need for quality education that equips learners with critical thinking, creativity, digital competence and problem-solving skills. Prof. Adimora urged policymakers and educators to embrace innovation, strengthen curriculum delivery and promote inclusive learning that prepares students for lifelong learning and sustainable development.

In separate remarks, the Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Prof. Uche Eme Uche, and the Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Elder Goodluck Ubochi, reaffirmed the state's

commitment to rebuilding public education through strategic investments in infrastructure, teacher development and education technology.

The General Manager of the Abia Newspapers and Publishing Corporation (ANPC), Hon. Jones Nnanna Ike, the Editor, National Ambassador, represented by Deacon Chukwuemeka Egejuru, commended the college for organising the conference. He described its theme as relevant to equipping learners with the knowledge and skills required in a rapidly changing world. He noted that education and the media remain indispensable partners in national development and urged participants to maximise the opportunities provided by the conference.

Labour Party Moves To Promote Civic Education, Launches Essay Competition

By Okereke Kate

The Abia State Chapter of the Labour Party has launched a statewide essay competition with a total prize pool of ₦2.8 million as part of efforts to promote civic education, encourage intellectual engagement and give young people a greater voice in governance.

The initiative, described as the first of its kind by the party, is designed to provide students across Abia State with an opportunity to contribute ideas that could influence government policies while rewarding academic excellence and creative thinking.

The competition was officially announced on recently 2026 during a media briefing held at the Labour Party State Secretariat in Umuahia by the State Secretary of the party, Chuku Akamadu, on behalf of the State Working Committee led by the State Chairman, Hon. Peter Azubuike.

Addressing journalists, Akamadu explained that the competition goes beyond rewarding brilliant students, stressing that it represents a deliberate effort by the Labour Party to involve young people directly in governance, leadership conversations and policy formulation.

According to him, the initiative aligns with the vision of Governor Alex Otte to build a disciplined, well-organised and people-oriented political party that promotes equal opportunity, social justice and responsible governance.

He stated that as the ruling party in Abia State, the Labour Party has a responsibility not only to contest elections but also to educate citizens, promote democratic values and create platforms where public opinion can contribute meaningfully to governance.

"Our responsibility as a political party extends beyond winning elections. We must



Mr. Peter Azubuike

continue to educate citizens, articulate public policy priorities, respond to civic concerns and encourage meaningful participation in the democratic process," he said.

Akamadu explained that the exercise would enable the party to periodically assess public opinion, especially among young people, and present valuable recommendations to the Governor for possible implementation.

He described young people as critical stakeholders whose voices deserve to be heard in discussions about the future of Abia State.

Essay Theme Focuses on Sustaining the New Abia The official topic for the competition is:

"The New Abia and Need for Consolidation."

According to the party, the topic was deliberately chosen to encourage students to critically examine the developmental strides recorded under Governor Otte's administration while proposing practical ideas capable of sustaining and improving the ongoing transformation.

Akamadu noted that the achievements recorded over

the last three years have provided young people with enough material to objectively evaluate governance and recommend innovative solutions for future development.

He commended Governor Otte for creating what he described as "a New Abia worth writing about."

"Today, Abia has become a model state. Other states now come to study what is happening here. There is no better time to be an Abian than now," he stated.

The competition is divided into two categories. Category A - Secondary School Students First Prize - ₦500,000 Second Prize - ₦300,000 Third Prize - ₦250,000 Category B - Tertiary Institution Students First Prize - ₦1,000,000 Second Prize - ₦500,000 Third Prize - ₦250,000

In addition to the major prizes, the party announced that several consolation prizes would be presented to highly competitive participants who narrowly miss the top three positions.

Schools attended by winning students will also receive special recognition during the prize presentation ceremony.

Labour Party announced that entries are open to Abia indigenes residing both within Nigeria and in the Diaspora, as well as residents of Abia State who fall within the eligible categories.

Each essay must not exceed 1,500 words, while participants are expected to include their names and schools directly beneath the essay topic.

Completed entries are to be submitted electronically through the party's official email:

info@labourpartyabia.com.

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The deadline for submission is July 17, 2026, while winners will be unveiled during the grand prize presentation ceremony scheduled for August 3, 2026.

Akamadu stressed that the initiative reflects the Labour Party's commitment to mainstreaming young people into governance rather than merely engaging them during election periods.

According to him, the competition provides students with an opportunity to influence leadership through ideas, research and intellectual contributions instead of political patronage.

He described the exercise as a platform through which the next generation of leaders can begin participating meaningfully in public discourse.

"We have come to give our youths a voice. Let them speak through their ink. They are critical stakeholders because the future of Abia belongs to them," he declared.

The Labour Party believes that encouraging critical thinking among students today will ultimately produce a generation of informed citizens capable of sustaining democracy, strengthening institutions and driving the continued transformation of Abia State.

NAPTIP Sensitizes Graduates On Human Trafficking Dangers

By Chibunna Ikeokwu

The Abia State Command of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, NAPTIP, has taken its advocacy to St. George's Academy, Federal Low Cost Housing Estate, Umuahia, to educate graduating pupils on the dangers of human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, and organ

harvesting.

The sensitization programme was held at the Kolping Society Hall in Umuahia. It targeted Primary Six pupils who are preparing to transition to secondary school.

Speaking at the event, the Abia State Commander of NAPTIP, Mrs. Nkemdilim Okafor, said the engagement was designed to

equip the pupils with knowledge that will help them avoid exposure to traffickers and other forms of abuse as they move to a new stage of life.

She urged the pupils to remain vigilant, avoid strange offers, and report any suspected case of abuse or exploitation to the appropriate authorities for their safety and protection.

Mrs. Okafor assured that

NAPTIP, in collaboration with other sister agencies, remains committed to eradicating human trafficking and related offences in Abia State and across Nigeria.

The outreach is part of NAPTIP's continued efforts to raise awareness among young people and build a safer environment for children in the state.

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Abia Reaffirms Commitment To Deepen Public Service Reforms

By Ndubueze Ngozi

The Abia State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to deepening public service reforms and improving the welfare of civil servants as part of ongoing efforts to build a professional, efficient and citizen-centred public service.

The Head of Service, Benson Ojeikere, gave the assurance during a leadership communications engagement with officers of the Office of the Head of Service, where he highlighted key reform initiatives aimed at strengthening governance, improving institutional performance and enhancing service delivery across Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

Ojeikere said the Citizen-Centred Service Delivery Policy is promoting greater

responsiveness, accountability and excellence in service delivery.

He added that the Weekly Work Plan and Staff Performance Assessment Management System, alongside the Daily Work Reporting Policy, are institutionalising proactive planning, measurable performance, transparency and accountability across the state public service.

On staff welfare, the Head of Service disclosed that the state government is equipping offices with modern furniture and air-conditioning systems to create a more conducive working environment. He also reaffirmed the implementation of the Contributory Pension Scheme and the State Health Insurance Scheme as key initiatives aimed at strengthening the welfare and social security of civil servants.

He further revealed

that discussions between the Abia State Government and the Bank of Industry are at an advanced stage to assess agribusiness opportunities for civil servants as part of efforts to improve their economic well-being.

According to him, the government is also engaging with the Enugu State Government to resolve the long-standing issue of outstanding retirement benefits owed to affected Abia civil servants who were disengaged several years ago.

Reaffirming Governor Alex Otti's vision for a transformed public service, Ojeikere said the administration remains committed to positioning the Abia State Civil Service as the most improved in Nigeria through sustained reforms, enhanced staff welfare and efficient service delivery.

Responding to concerns raised during the

interactive session, the Head of Service assured participants that issues relating to promotion arrears and other welfare matters had been noted and would be addressed through the appropriate government processes.

He also reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing the necessary legal framework to guarantee the sustainability of the Contributory Pension Scheme.

Ojeikere urged civil servants to continue supporting the ongoing reform agenda through professionalism, discipline and dedication to duty. He noted that the leadership communications platform would remain a vital mechanism for promoting effective communication, strengthening trust between government and workers, and sustaining the transformation of the Abia State Public Service.

Aguocha To Convene Security Summit, Unveil Community Safety Initiative for Ikwuano/Umuahia

By Okereke Kate

The member representing Ikwuano/Umuahia Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, Hon. Obi Aguocha, has announced plans to convene a security summit aimed at strengthening community-based efforts to tackle rising cases of kidnapping, banditry and other criminal activities across the constituency.

Speaking during a radio programme in Umuahia, Aguocha expressed concern over the worsening security situation, stressing that communities must become more proactive in safeguarding lives and property while working closely with government and security agencies.

According to the lawmaker, insecurity has become a daily reality for residents, citing the abduction of his elder brother and two other persons along the Okigwe axis several weeks ago. He disclosed that the victims remain in captivity, adding that there has been no recent communication from the abductors or proof that they are still alive.

"The issue of insecurity is real. The invasion of our communities by criminal elements is real, and we see it every day with the increasing number of kidnappings. We must defend ourselves while waiting for government assistance. We have to be vigilant, focused and work together because security is everyone's responsibility", Aguocha said.

He revealed that the proposed security summit, scheduled to hold next week, would bring together traditional rulers, president-generals, youth leaders, local vigilance groups and security agencies from across Ikwuano/Umuahia to develop a coordinated strategy for protecting communities.

Aguocha said the summit would be followed by the empowerment of community security outfits with operational tools, including vehicles, walkie-talkies and drones, to enhance surveillance and intelligence gathering, particularly in forests suspected to be hideouts for criminal elements.

He noted that the initiative would also focus on improving collaboration between communities and security agencies through timely intelligence

sharing, while encouraging residents to know those living within their neighbourhoods.

The federal lawmaker maintained that although the Abia State Government and security agencies are making efforts to address insecurity, communities must complement those efforts by taking ownership of their local security architecture.

"We want co-ordinated efforts. security begins at home. If every constituency strengthens its security structure, it will contribute significantly to making the entire state safer", he stated.

Aguocha added that securing Ikwuano/Umuahia which happens to be the seat of the state capital, remains a priority, warning that allowing criminal activities to spread unchecked could undermine development and distract the government from its developmental agenda.

He also commended the people of Umuahia community for establishing an organised community security structure, describing it as a model worthy of emulation by other communities.

According to him, the active participation of youths, elders, churches and community leaders in the Umuahia Alaocha security initiative demonstrates the collective approach required to combat insecurity.

Drawing from his experience as a former President-General of Ohuhu, Aguocha recalled that similar community-driven security initiatives had yielded positive results and inspired neighbouring communities to establish their own security networks.

He said his long-term vision is to establish a centralised security coordination system across Ikwuano/Umuahia that will enable real-time monitoring of security situations, improve emergency response and restore confidence among residents, especially farmers who have become increasingly reluctant to access their farmlands due to fear of attacks.

The lawmaker further assured his constituents that beyond making public statements, he is committed to backing his words with concrete actions to ensure communities are better equipped to defend themselves and support formal security agencies in maintaining peace and order.



Head of Service, Benson Ojeikere,

NYCN President Calls For Peace, Unity, Youth Empowerment

By Chukwuemeka Egejuru and Nzeuzor Jane

The President of the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), Amb. Sukubo Sara-Igbe Sukubo, has called on Nigerian youths to embrace peace, unity and responsible conduct, urging them to remain law-abiding and reject all forms of violence and criminality.

He made the call during a special thanksgiving service organised by the NYCN in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, to appreciate God for the council's recent judicial victories and reaffirm its commitment to

national development.

Addressing members and guests at the event, Sukubo said the youth population remains Nigeria's greatest asset and should channel its energy toward nation-building, innovation, entrepreneurship and community service rather than actions capable of undermining the country's peace and stability.

He emphasised that sustainable national development can only thrive in an atmosphere of peace and unity, urging young Nigerians to become ambassadors of tolerance, dialogue and patriotism in their

respective communities.

The NYCN president also reiterated the council's commitment to partnering with the Federal Government and other relevant stakeholders in promoting policies and programmes that advance peace, national cohesion and inclusive development.

According to him, the council is set to roll out youth empowerment initiatives across the federation aimed at equipping young people with skills, creating employment opportunities and encouraging self-reliance.

He noted that the

programmes would focus on entrepreneurship, leadership development, vocational training, digital innovation and civic engagement as part of efforts to unlock the enormous potential of Nigerian youths.

Sukubo further urged governments at all levels, the private sector and development partners to invest more in youth-focused initiatives, stressing that empowering young people remains one of the most effective strategies for tackling unemployment, insecurity and other social challenges confronting the nation.



Hon. Obi Aguocha

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INEC Chairman, Prof. Joash Amupita

Ogah's Achievements In National Assembly Surpassed Those Recorded By Onyejeocha - LP Chairman

By Okereke Kate

The Chairman of the Labour Party in Abia State, Hon. Peter Azubuikwe, has declared that the member representing Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, Hon. Amobi Ogah, remains one of the best-performing lawmakers in Nigeria. He insisted that his achievements in office had surpassed those recorded during the 16-year tenure of former lawmaker and ex-Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Hon. Nkiru Onyejeocha.

Azubuikwe made the remarks while fielding questions from journalists during a media parley in Umuahia, where he expressed confidence that Ogah would secure re-election if faced with Onyejeocha in the 2027 contest.

According to him, it would be politically unwise for any party to replace a performing lawmaker with someone who had already spent 16 years in the National Assembly.

"Why will a party change itself by removing its best player from the pitch? Hon. Amobi Ogah is one of the best members of the House of Representatives, not just in Abia State but in Nigeria," he said.

The Labour Party chairman argued that Ogah's developmental projects, empowerment programmes and legislative performance within three years in office cannot be compared with Onyejeocha's 16-year tenure in the House of Representatives.

"You cannot compare Amobi Ogah's three years in

office to Nkiru Onyejeocha's 16 years in the National Assembly. She was there from 2007 to 2023. What exactly did she achieve that can be compared with what Amobi has done in one tenure?" he queried.

While describing Onyejeocha as "a nice person," Azubuikwe maintained that there was no justification for replacing Ogah, whom he said has demonstrated exceptional capacity and intellectual leadership through his representation of the constituency.

He further noted that after resigning as Minister of State for Labour and Employment, no indigene of Isuikwuato/Umunneochi had been appointed to

occupy the position, arguing that retaining both Ogah in the National Assembly and Onyejeocha in the executive arm would have been more beneficial to the constituency.

"The way we play politics leaves me wondering sometimes. We are only short-changing our people. Is there anything wrong with Amobi Ogah remaining in the House of Representatives while Nkiru Onyejeocha serves in the executive? That would have given the constituency greater representation," he stated.

Azubuikwe, however, acknowledged Onyejeocha's constitutional right to seek elective office but expressed confidence that Ogah would defeat her

if they eventually face each other at the polls.

"She has every right to contest, but Amobi Ogah will defeat her outrightly. In just one tenure, his level of development, empowerment and constituency impact speaks for itself. He is one of the best lawmakers in Nigeria," he said.

He also appealed for civility in the political relationship between both leaders, stressing that any differences between them should be resolved amicably.

"The disagreement between Amobi Ogah and Nkiru Onyejeocha should be approached in a brotherly manner rather than through unnecessary fights and quarrels," Azubuikwe added.

Abia To Begin Affordable Housing Estate Soon - Commissioner

By Eberetasi

Abia State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to reducing the housing deficit through the development of affordable and modern residential estates across the state.

The Commissioner for Housing, Chiemela Charles Uzoije, disclosed this while speaking with the Abia Broadcasting Corporation (BCA), during an inspection of the proposed Pocket Layout Housing Estate at the former Civil Service Commission premises in Umuahia.

He announced that construction work on the project, which will extend from the old Civil Service Commission site to the former Abia Hotels area, is expected to start within the next two weeks.

According to the commissioner, the housing estate will feature a mix of residential units, including five-bedroom duplexes with one-room boys' quarters, four-bedroom semi-detached

duplexes, two-bedroom flats and three-bedroom flats to cater to the diverse housing needs of residents.

Uzoije further disclosed that Governor Alex Otti will officially perform the groundbreaking ceremony for the project on a date to be announced.

He explained that the variety of housing options being provided is aimed at giving prospective homeowners the opportunity to choose homes that suit their preferences and financial capacity.

The commissioner noted that the Pocket Layout Housing Estate is designed to provide affordable, decent and contemporary housing for Abians, in line with the state's urban renewal and infrastructure development agenda.

He reiterated that the Otti administration remains committed to improving the quality of life of residents through sustainable housing initiatives and other people-oriented projects that will drive the overall development of Abia State.

Abia Assembly Summons DPO, Over Alleged Police Killing Of Okwukwe

By Chijioko Chukwuemeka

The Abia State House of Assembly has summoned the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Umuikaa Police Station to appear before it over the alleged killing of Mr. Abraham Okwukwe, an indigene of Isiala Ngwa South Local Government Area, following allegations of police brutality.

The resolution followed a Matter of Urgent Public Importance moved during plenary by the member representing Isiala Ngwa South State Constituency, Hon. Dennis Roland Chinwendu.

Presenting the motion, Hon. Chinwendu lamented what he described as recurring incidents of police brutality in his constituency, alleging that the latest occurred on June 23, 2026, when Mr. Okwukwe reportedly died after being assaulted by policemen allegedly led by an officer identified as Sunny.

The lawmaker urged the House to intervene to ensure justice for the deceased and prevent further cases of police brutality across the state.

Following deliberations, the House resolved to invite the DPO of Umuikaa Police Station, the Abia State Commissioner for Justice and the police officer allegedly involved in the incident to appear before the legislature for questioning.

In a related development, the Assembly also summoned the management of the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company (NPDC) over the June 22 pipeline explosion that devastated Owazza Community in Ukwu West Local Government Area.

The invitation followed another Matter of Urgent Public Importance sponsored by the member representing Ukwu West State Constituency, Hon. Godwin Adiele, titled "A Call for Urgent Relief and Total Rehabilitation of Damages Caused by Pipeline Explosion in Owazza Community of Ukwu West."

Hon. Adiele told the House that the explosion destroyed farmlands, residential buildings, household property and other valuable assets, leaving many residents displaced and depriving them of their means of livelihood.

He further stated that preliminary findings by the Abia State Commissioners for Environment and Petroleum Resources allegedly faulted the NPDC, which now manages the affected pipeline following its takeover from Shell Petroleum Development Company.

The lawmaker urged the state government to compel the NPDC to provide immediate relief to affected residents, noting that the company had yet to identify with the victims since the incident occurred.

He also called on the Assembly to mandate the company to visit the affected community, assess the extent of the damage and present a clear compensation plan for victims.

The House unanimously adopted the prayers and directed Hon. Adiele to work with the House Committee on Environment to ensure compliance with its resolutions.

Lawmakers also considered the reports of the House Committee on Public Accounts, Anti-Corruption and Due Process on the 2022, 2023 and 2024 Reports of the Accountant-General and the Financial Statements of the Government of Abia State.

The Assembly further deliberated on H.A.M. 51, a motion sponsored by Hon. Chinwendu seeking the rehabilitation of the Omoba-Umuekegwu-Amaekpu-Umukoro Road in Isiala Ngwa South.

The House urged the Abia State Government, through the Ministry of Works, to undertake immediate palliative repairs on the failed sections of the road pending the full implementation of the 2026 budget, which provides for its comprehensive rehabilitation. The House Committee on Works was mandated to monitor implementation.

Also considered were the report of the House Committee on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs on a petition challenging the alleged clandestine publication in the Abia State Government Gazette concerning Amibo Autonomous Community, as well as the report of the House Committee on Lands and Housing on H.A.B. 34, the Abia State Real Estate, Landlords and Tenants Bill, 2025.

The Assembly equally considered H.A.B. 6, the Abia State University (Amendment) Bill, 2026, in the Committee of the Whole.

However, consideration of H.A.B. 28 of 2025, the Abia Market Survey and Protection Bill; H.A.B. 29 of 2025, the Abia State Poverty Alleviation Trust Fund Bill; and H.A.B. 7 of 2025, the Abia State Sports Development Fund Bill, was deferred to a later legislative date.

Editorial

Ending the Tragedy of Maternal Mortality

For many expectant mothers in Nigeria today, pregnancy is no longer only a journey of hope and anticipation; it has become an expensive and frightening financial burden. The joy of welcoming a new baby is increasingly overshadowed by soaring medical bills, hidden hospital charges and difficult choices that often determine whether a mother survives childbirth.

Across public and private health facilities, the cost of antenatal care, laboratory tests, medications, normal delivery and Caesarean Section (CS) has risen beyond the reach of many families. Inflation, the rising cost of medical supplies, exchange rate instability and broader economic hardship have all contributed to escalating healthcare costs. Yet, these realities should never become a death sentence for pregnant women.

The consequences are evident. Many women delay registering for antenatal care, skip vital medical appointments or resort to traditional birth attendants and home deliveries because they simply cannot afford hospital services. Others are reportedly detained in health facilities after delivery because they cannot settle their bills, while some families borrow money, sell household assets or seek public donations to save the lives of mothers and newborns. Sadly, some do not survive the delays caused by the inability to pay.

These are not isolated incidents. They reflect a healthcare system struggling to protect its most vulnerable citizens.

The statistics are alarming. According to the latest joint estimates by the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, about 260,000 women died globally from pregnancy and childbirth-related causes in 2023, representing a global maternal mortality ratio of 197 deaths per 100,000 live births. Although global maternal deaths have declined by about 40 per cent since 2000, progress has slowed, putting the Sustainable Development Goal target of reducing maternal mortality to fewer than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030 at risk.

Nigeria remains at the epicentre of this crisis. The country's maternal mortality ratio stands at an alarming 993 deaths per 100,000 live births, one of the highest in the world. Worse still, an estimated 75,000 Nigerian women died from pregnancy and childbirth complications in 2023, accounting for about 29 per cent of all maternal deaths globally. In simple terms, nearly one out of every three women who dies during

pregnancy or childbirth worldwide is Nigerian.

Most of these deaths result from preventable causes such as severe bleeding, eclampsia, obstructed labour, sepsis and delays in accessing emergency obstetric care. No nation should accept a situation where a woman loses her life simply because she could not afford a Caesarean Section or delayed seeking treatment due to financial constraints. Safe motherhood is not a privilege reserved for the wealthy; it is a fundamental human right.

Other countries have demonstrated that maternal deaths can be drastically reduced through deliberate public policies. Rwanda has expanded access to affordable maternal healthcare through community-based health insurance. Ghana's National Health Insurance Scheme covers antenatal, delivery and postnatal care, reducing financial barriers for pregnant women. In the United Kingdom, maternity care is funded through the National Health Service, while countries such as Norway, Sweden and Finland record fewer than 10 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births because maternal healthcare is treated as an essential public service.

Nigeria does not have to reinvent the wheel. It can adapt these successful models while addressing its peculiar realities.

Governments at all levels must substantially increase funding for maternal and child healthcare. Primary healthcare centres should be revitalised, adequately staffed and equipped to provide quality antenatal, delivery and emergency obstetric services, particularly in rural communities.

More importantly, lawmakers should urgently sponsor and pass a comprehensive bill guaranteeing free prenatal, antenatal, delivery and postnatal healthcare for every pregnant woman. Such legislation should be enacted by the National Assembly and replicated across all State Houses of Assembly, making maternal healthcare a legal entitlement backed by dedicated funding and effective implementation. This single policy could save thousands of lives annually.

The National Health Insurance Authority and state health insurance agencies should also expand universal maternal health coverage, while governments establish emergency obstetric intervention funds, transportation support for rural women and efficient referral systems. Healthcare workers deserve improved welfare, continuous training and modern equipment, while hospital billing should be transparent and free from exploitative practices.

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, state governors and members of the National and State Assemblies must rise to this challenge. They have an opportunity to leave an enduring legacy by making safe motherhood a national priority. No woman should lose her life while giving birth to another.

The measure of any society lies in how it protects its mothers and children. Every maternal death is a preventable tragedy that devastates families and weakens communities. Nigeria possesses the resources, expertise and policy options to reverse this disturbing trend. What is needed now is bold legislation, sustained investment and unwavering political will. The time to act is now.

LETTERS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:
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URGENT NEED FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION ON THE INCREASING COST OF RENT IN UMUAHIA

Dear editor,

Let me use your widely read newspaper to express serious concern about the rising cost of house rent in Umuahia. The sudden and continuous increase in rent across different parts of the city has become very alarming. Many tenants are now facing very high rent charges imposed by landlords and agents. For example, some two-bedroom flats now go for about 1.2 million naira or even 1 million Naira, while some one-bedroom flats are around 700,000,800,000. These increases are often demanded without proper notice or consideration of the current economic hardship in the country.

This situation is affecting many categories of people in the city. Civil servants, low-income earners, students, and small business owners are all struggling to cope with the high cost of accommodation. In many cases, rent has increased by more than 50% within a short period of time. Because of this, some families have been forced to leave their homes and move to cheaper areas that are sometimes less safe or far from their workplaces some have even relocated to the village. This has increased stress, inconvenience, and hardship for many residents.

The cost of living is already very high, and housing is one of the most basic human needs. When rent becomes too expensive, it does not only affect individuals but also disturbs families and the general peace and stability of the community. Many people now live in constant fear of sudden rent increases or eviction, which creates insecurity and uncertainty in their lives.

I therefore respectfully call on the Governor of Abia State to urgently address this issue. There is a strong need for government intervention through clear housing policies that will regulate rent increases and protect tenants from exploitation. The introduction of fair rent guidelines or control measures will help to create balance between landlords and tenants and reduce unnecessary hardship.

Affordable housing is very important for the welfare of the people, and urgent action is needed to prevent the situation from becoming worse.

Ifeyani Ogidi
Write from
Umuahia



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FG Raises Committee For 26th National Council On Women Affairs

The Federal Government has inaugurated a 17-member planning committee for the 26th National Council on Women Affairs and Social Development, with a mandate to develop practical policies that will strengthen families, deepen social protection and improve the welfare of women, children and other vulnerable groups.

In a statement issued by the ministry's Head of Press and Public Relations, Ahmed Lawan Danbazau, the Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development, Hajia Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, congratulated members of the committee on their appointment. She urged them to carry out their responsibilities with diligence, commitment and a shared resolve to advance national development.

Inaugurating the committee at the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in Abuja, the minister said the exercise marks the beginning of preparations for the Council, which will be hosted in Jalingo, Taraba State.

She said the committee's assignment goes beyond planning the event, stressing that the Council must produce actionable resolutions capable of addressing the needs of women, families and vulnerable citizens across the country.

According to the minister, the theme of the Council, "Strengthening Families and Advancing the Care Economy for Inclusive Development: Operationalising Nigeria's Renewed Social Protection Architecture," reflects the Federal Government's commitment to placing the family at the centre of

national development. Sulaiman-Ibrahim noted that the theme aligns with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's declaration of 2026 as the Year of Social Development and Families, aimed at promoting economic growth, social stability, gender equality and inclusive development. She disclosed that the ministry has developed over 40 policies and strategic frameworks designed to strengthen Nigeria's social protection system, formalise the care economy and improve support for vulnerable groups under the Renewed Hope Agenda.

The minister urged the committee to ensure broad stakeholder participation in the planning process to guarantee that the Council's resolutions reflect the aspirations of Nigerians and translate into tangible benefits.

She also directed members to establish an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure that decisions reached at the council are adequately funded, implemented and evaluated before the next meeting.

Sulaiman-Ibrahim emphasised that the success of the Council would be judged by the impact of its resolutions rather than the quality of its ceremonies. She added that expanding opportunities for women, improving child protection and enhancing family welfare should remain key priorities.

The committee is chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Mrs. Esuabana Nko Asanye, while the Director of Planning, Research and Statistics, Mrs. Amina Jalo, will serve as secretary.

Presidency Denies Corruption Claims

The Presidency has defended its handling of the case involving Prince Adeniyi Adeyemi Matthew, insisting that the suspect is facing criminal prosecution for alleged forgery, impersonation and obtaining by false pretence, while rejecting claims that the Presidential Foreign Intervention Promotion Council (PFIPC) was a legitimate government agency.

The clarification came amid growing public controversy following allegations that the council operated within the Federal Secretariat, maintained official government accounts and was captured in the 2026 Appropriation Act with a budgetary allocation of ₦1.302 billion.

In a statement issued by the Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, the Presidency maintained that investigations established that Adeyemi fraudulently created the purported council, appointed himself as its Director-General and forged presidential documents to give legitimacy to his activities.

According to the statement, the suspect



allegedly secured office accommodation within the Federal Secretariat, convened meetings involving foreign diplomats and senior government officials, and falsely represented Nigeria at international engagements without any authorization from the Federal Government.

The Presidency explained that the alleged activities prompted the Chief of Staff to the President, Femi Gbajabiamila, to petition law enforcement authorities, leading to a police investigation and the filing of criminal charges before the Federal High Court in Abuja.

Police prosecutors subsequently arraigned Adeyemi on charges bordering on conspiracy,

forgery, impersonation and obtaining by false pretence, while investigations continue into the roles of two other suspects who are reportedly still at large.

Recall that the controversy escalated after allegations surfaced that the suspect had not only established the purported council but also allegedly opened a bank account in its name, secured office space inside the Federal Secretariat, summoned ambassadors to official meetings, interacted with ministers and other senior government officials, and allegedly influenced the inclusion of ₦1,302,978,784 for the entity in the 2026 national budget.

The allegations triggered widespread public outrage, with critics questioning how an agency the Presidency now describes as non-existent could allegedly gain access to government facilities, official recognition and a substantial appropriation without the knowledge of relevant authorities.

The development also fueled accusations of possible corruption, abuse of public office and institutional compromise, as many Nigerians demanded explanations over whether public funds had been appropriated or released to an organization that allegedly lacked legal existence.

However, the Presidency dismissed suggestions of official complicity, insisting that the alleged actions were part of an elaborate scheme orchestrated by the suspect through forged documents and false representations.

It maintained that the criminal prosecution demonstrates the Federal Government's commitment to accountability and due process rather than any attempt to shield wrongdoing.

Despite the government's position, Adeyemi has continued to insist that the council is legitimate, arguing that its inclusion in the 2026 Appropriation Act, the alleged existence of official bank accounts and office accommodation within the Federal Secretariat support his claims.

He has, therefore, called for an independent investigation to establish the true circumstances surrounding the council's operations.

Meanwhile, legal practitioners, anti-corruption advocates and civil society organisations have renewed calls for a comprehensive and transparent investigation, arguing that beyond the ongoing criminal trial, authorities must explain how the disputed council allegedly found its way into official government records and the national budget.

The Presidency, however, urged the public to avoid speculation and allow the court to determine the facts, assuring Nigerians that the judicial process would establish responsibility for the allegations and address all issues surrounding the disputed council.

Okoye Advocates Merit-Based Selection Of Traditional Rulers, Backs State Police

Traditional leader and Director of International Liaison, Bola Ahmed Tinubu 2027, Chief Wisdom Chukwuma Okoye, has called for a transparent, credible and merit-driven process in the selection of traditional rulers. He said only individuals with integrity, competence and exemplary character should occupy traditional stools.

Speaking on issues affecting Nigeria's traditional institutions, cultural heritage and national security, Chief Okoye described traditional rulers as critical stakeholders in grassroots governance, conflict resolution and community development.

He stressed that enthroning credible monarchs would strengthen public confidence in the institution and promote stability across communities.

Chief Okoye urged relevant authorities and kingmakers to adopt clearly defined standards for the emergence of traditional rulers, noting that preserving the sanctity and dignity of the institution requires selecting leaders who are committed to justice, peace, unity and the overall development of their domains.

According to him, traditional institutions remain indispensable partners in nation-building and should continue to play active roles in promoting harmony and fostering closer collaboration between government and local communities.

On security, Chief Okoye expressed strong support for the establishment of state police, describing the proposal as a practical solution to Nigeria's growing security challenges. He said decentralised policing would improve intelligence gathering,

facilitate quicker responses to security threats and complement the operations of existing federal security agencies.

Chief Okoye observed that security challenges differ from one region to another, making community-oriented policing essential for addressing local threats effectively.

He added that the ongoing constitutional debate on state police presents an opportunity to strengthen Nigeria's security architecture through greater collaboration among all tiers of government.

Chief Okoye further called on the Federal Government, state governments, traditional institutions and other stakeholders, to work collectively towards safeguarding lives and property, while preserving the country's rich cultural heritage.

Commenting on national development, he expressed confidence in the leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. He stated that the administration's ongoing economic reforms and infrastructure development initiatives are designed to lay a solid foundation for sustainable growth, improved security and national prosperity.

He urged Nigerians to remain united, support policies aimed at advancing national development and remain optimistic about the country's future.

Chief Okoye reaffirmed his commitment to promoting good governance, preserving cultural values and encouraging constructive engagement among citizens as part of efforts to build a more peaceful, secure and prosperous Nigeria.

News

Abia, SEDC Partner to Boost Commercial Agric, Economic Growth

ByEbereTasie

Abia State Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the South-East Development Commission (SEDC), to accelerate agricultural industrialisation and stimulate economic development across the state.

The agreement, signed through the Abia State Ministry of Agriculture under the South-East Agro Development Programme, is aimed at promoting large-scale commercial agriculture, attracting investment into the agro-allied sector, creating employment opportunities, strengthening farmers' capacity and developing sustainable agricultural systems.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Dr. Cliff Agbaeze, said the initiative aligns with Governor Alex Otti's vision of transforming agriculture from a subsistence activity into a commercially driven and wealth-generating sector.

According to him, the ministry's strategic plan prioritises large-scale mechanised farming capable of contributing significantly to the state's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), increasing

Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) and creating thousands of jobs for residents.

Dr. Agbaeze noted that the administration is committed to repositioning agriculture as a major driver of economic growth while ensuring food security and improving farmers' incomes through commercial production.

He explained that engagements with the South-East Development Commission began shortly after the commission was established to coordinate development initiatives across the South-East region.

The commissioner disclosed that Abia was among the first states to formally engage the commission by submitting a comprehensive concept note approved by Governor Otti. He added that the proposal underwent several rounds of technical discussions, site inspections and legal reviews before culminating in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

The partnership is expected to lay the foundation for increased private sector participation, modern agricultural practices and sustainable economic transformation in Abia State.



Abia Commissioner for Agric, Dr. Cliff Agbaeze

Community Leader Mobilises Women For Otti

By Chinaza Onyema

Prominent community leader and traditional ruler, Chief Chukwuedozie Richard Imah, has called on women in Umunneochi Local Government Area to strengthen grassroots mobilisation and build broad-based support for the re-election of Governor Alex Chioma Otti in the 2027 governorship election.

Chief Imah, popularly known as the Onowu (Traditional Prime Minister) of NdigboEjigbo in Lagos State, made the call during a grassroots mobilisation programme organised by the Umunneochi chapter of Onu-Ugu Women for Governor Alex Otti at the Umunneochi Local Government Council Headquarters, Nkwoaga, Amudalsuochi.

The event also featured the conferment of the Grand Patron of Umunneochi Onu-Ugu Women for Governor Alex Otti award on Chief Imah in recognition of his

contributions to community development and grassroots political mobilisation.

Speaking after receiving the honour, Chief Imah described women as indispensable to democratic governance and electoral success, noting that they play a critical role in voter mobilisation, community engagement and advocacy.

He urged members of the group to widen their outreach by encouraging more women, irrespective of political affiliation, to join the movement in support of Governor Otti's second-term bid, saying sustained grassroots participation would help consolidate the developmental strides recorded by the current administration.

According to him, greater involvement of women in politics and governance promotes inclusive decision-making, strengthens democratic institutions and ensures that government policies

respond to the needs of the wider population.

Chief Imah commended Governor Otti for what he described as visionary leadership and his commitment to transforming Abia State through infrastructure renewal, economic reforms and people-centred policies.

He particularly applauded the administration's extensive road rehabilitation and reconstruction projects, describing them as critical investments that have improved connectivity, enhanced economic activities and created a more conducive environment for business and investment across the state.

The United Nations Peace Ambassador and water engineering expert expressed confidence that the ongoing infrastructure development would deliver lasting socioeconomic benefits and further position Abia as a model of good

governance and sustainable development.

He also praised the Onu-Ugu Women for Governor Alex Otti for their commitment to mobilising women across Umunneochi in support of the governor's administration and urged them to sustain the momentum ahead of future elections.

Expressing appreciation for the Grand Patron award, Chief Imah thanked the group for the recognition and pledged his continued support for its vision and activities.

The mobilisation programme, organised in collaboration with Alpha Abia Arise, also featured the presentation of candidates seeking elective offices in the forthcoming elections.

Onu-Ugu Women for Governor Alex Otti is a grassroots support organisation initiated by the Wife of the Governor, Mrs. Priscilla Otti, to mobilise women across Abia State in support of the policies, programmes and development agenda of the state government.



National Youth Service Corps Members

FG's NYSC Restructuring Plan Sparks Mixed Reactions

ByEbereTasie

The Federal Government of Nigeria, recently revealed its plans on restructuring the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), describing it as the first comprehensive reform of the scheme since its establishment in 1973.

The reform includes extending orientation camp from three weeks to six weeks, introducing 11 specialised service streams, placing the agency under civilian leadership and skills-based primary assignments among others.

According to government officials, the changes are aimed at

making the scheme more skill-oriented, employment-driven, and aligned with Nigeria's economic development goals.

The proposed structure will see corps members choose career-based streams such as Tech and Digital Corps, Agric Corps, Medical Corps, Legal Corps, Enterprise Corps, and others.

The announcement has generated widespread debate among Nigerians, especially youths who are still undergraduates and graduates too.

Many Nigerians welcomed the reform, arguing that the current NYSC model has become

outdated and needs modernization. Supporters believe the inclusion of vocational and career training could better prepare graduates for employment and entrepreneurship.

Some respondents on social media praised the government's focus on skills acquisition and security-sensitive deployment policies, saying the changes could make the service year more productive and safer for participants.

However, critics questioned the timing and practicality of the reforms. Concerns have been raised about funding, poor camp facilities, and the extension of

orientation camp to six weeks amid rising economic hardship.

Others argued that the government should first address insecurity and improve corps members' welfare before expanding the programme.

In an opinion sampled in the city of Umuahia, Abia State, a cross-section of youths and Adult shared varying opinions on the planned restructuring.

Miss HavilahObed, a graduate of Abia State University, Uturu and an aspirant of NYSC, said that the plan for the extension of

camping period from three weeks to six weeks is a welcome development since it is based on skills acquisition purpose.

Religion

Understanding The Power Of Vision

By David Oyedepo

One of the greatest dangers in life is pride. Pride destroys destinies, blocks progress, stops God's grace from flowing, and takes away favor. It can also become a barrier to marriage. The Bible teaches that "before honor is humility" (Proverbs 15:33), and since marriage is honorable, humility is an important key to enjoying that blessing.

If you desire the honor of marriage, learn to clothe yourself with humility. The way you respond to people, especially those who approach you with genuine intentions, matters. A proud or disrespectful attitude can close doors that God has opened. Marriage becomes sweeter when two people are willing to grow and build together. Do not spend your life looking for someone who already has everything. Wealth and possessions can change, but a godly relationship built on love, faith, and commitment will stand the test of time.

Another important key is faith. Faith is God's answer to every satanic resistance and every obstacle on the path to your marital destiny. Ephesians 6 teaches us to take up the shield of faith so that we can overcome every attack of the enemy. Likewise, 1 John 5:4 reminds us that our faith gives us victory over the world. As you build your faith through God's Word and stand firmly on His promises, every

barrier standing in your way will give way in Jesus' name.

The Bible also warns believers against following other gods. Psalm 16:4 says that those who chase after other gods only multiply their sorrows. No matter how long you have waited or how desperate you may feel, never turn away from God in search of solutions elsewhere. Trusting in charms, idols, or ungodly practices will only complicate your life. God desires your complete trust because He is a jealous God who wants your wholehearted devotion.

The book of James tells us that a double-minded person is unstable and

A timeless principle is this: Whatever God cannot do, let it remain undone. Whatever God cannot give you, do not desire it. Wherever God cannot lead you, do not go there

should not expect to receive from God. You cannot depend on God while also seeking help from ungodly sources. True breakthrough comes when you place your confidence in God alone. Wait patiently on Him, for your expectation should come from Him. God's timing is always perfect, and when He settles you, no power of the enemy can reverse His blessing.

God has the power to change your situation at any moment. He can bless you with a godly husband or wife, restore a widow or widower, and bring joy where there has been sorrow. Therefore, make God your only Source. Do not allow the enemy to gain influence over any area of your life. As you remain faithful to God, He will lead you from strength to strength and from glory to glory.

A timeless principle is this: Whatever God cannot do, let it remain undone. Whatever God cannot give you, do not desire it. Wherever God cannot lead you, do not go there. When you trust God completely, He will take you farther than you could ever imagine and fulfill His purpose for your life in ways beyond human understanding.

God continues to wipe away the tears of His people. Therefore, receive His promises today: may peace come to every troubled family, joy replace every season of sorrow, restoration come to every broken home, and every threat of divorce be destroyed. May every delay concerning marriage come to an end, and may every

obstacle standing in the way of your marital destiny be removed by the power of God.

We are living in uncertain times, but God's Word assures us that all things work together for good for those who love Him (Romans 8:28). Your love for God and your obedience to His Word will distinguish you. As your faith grows stronger and your commitment to God deepens, He will bring His promises to pass in your life.

Finally, be careful of false teachings and deceptive voices that claim to speak for God while leading people away from Him. Test everything by the Scriptures. As believers, our foundation is the Word of God. Live by His Word, trust His promises, and refuse to be controlled by fear, family traditions, or negative generational patterns. Through Christ, you belong to a new family, a heavenly kingdom, and your identity is now in Him.

May every trap of the enemy be broken over your life. May every mountain standing before your destiny be removed, every delay come to an end, and may God's favor, peace, and blessings rest upon you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Bishop David Oyedepo is the founder of Living Faith Church also known as Winner's Chapel international

Family Matters

By Pastor Faith Oyedepo

The home is the most important institution in the world. It is the first department in which a child learns to become a proper citizen – a man or woman of dignity and value. By home, I mean primarily the members of the family or more specifically, the father and mother.

Among the institutions for child training, the home has the largest share of the responsibilities. If the home fails, the Church, society and the school will be greatly affected. Many atrocities all over the world today, are a direct result of improper home training.

Drug addicts, armed robbers and fraudsters all have a family, because nobody dropped from the sky. Every living being today came from a family. If the respective families that make up a society fail to carry out their responsibilities, then the children which are products of the family will become dregs of the society. "Charity begins at home," they say.

It is also important to understand that child raising in the home should be allowed to follow a natural process. While the formal method of training is good, you must use every opportunity that presents itself in the home to communicate morals across to the child. These include: mealtimes, when you are in the kitchen together, in the sitting

The Home: An Institution For Child Training

room or even before bedtime. All these times that you may count as informal can be used to train a child.

It is in this atmosphere of love that the Holy Spirit is able to move freely, and the destiny of the child is easily realised. Thus, it is time to work on the atmosphere of your home and make it conducive for the Holy Spirit to move. God cannot dwell in a place where there is strife, fighting, envy and bitterness. Where such things are found, there will be room for all kinds of evil. The Bible says: For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work (James 3:16)

The question you must answer is, "What kind of home do I have?" Is it a place of healing or centre of gossip, where you criticise everybody in your Church or office? I discovered something amazing in Jeremiah 22:29, which says: O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD. Do you know that even the ground of your home absorbs what you say? So, when you abuse people, backbite or gossip, the ground is absorbing the words of your mouth! In other words, the words of your mouth are seeds being sown into your ground. Unfortunately, you are the one doing the sowing, but it is not only you who reaps it; your children also do. May you be a sower of good seeds!

Most importantly, the place of a woman in raising a child can never be overemphasised. This is because, to a large extent, it is the woman who determines the atmosphere of the home. Do you know that

just by entering a home, you can feel the atmosphere in it? If there is bitterness, envy, strife, etc, you can sense it. However, where there is peace, love and joy, it is easy to tell also.

We are told that Napoleon Bonaparte, was asked what the greatest need of France was. He said, "Good mothers!" If I am asked what the greatest need of this generation is, I will also say the same. This is our greatest need because irrespective of your efforts on the adults of today, if you don't raise responsible children, tomorrow might be bleak! So, child raising is an important aspect of the society.

However, until you are born again, you don't have what it takes to make child's training conducive. To be born again, you have to confess your sins and accept Jesus as your personal Saviour and Lord. If you are ready for this new birth experience, please

The question you must answer is, "What kind of home do I have?" Is it a place of healing or centre of gossip, where you criticise everybody in your Church or office?

say this prayer in faith: Dear Lord Jesus Christ, I come to You today. I am a sinner. Forgive me my sins and cleanse me with Your Blood. I accept You as my Lord and personal Saviour. Make me a child of God today. Thank You for delivering me from sin and Satan to serve the living God and thank You for accepting me into Your Kingdom

Congratulations! If you prayed this simple prayer of faith with me, you are now born again and a child of God. He loves you and will never leave you. Read your Bible daily, obey God's Word and seek Christian fellowship (John 14:21).

With this, you are guaranteed all-round rest and peace in Jesus' Name! Write to share your testimonies with me through contact@faithoyedepo.org.

For more insight, these books authored by me are available at the Dominion Bookstores in all Living Faith Churches and other leading Christian bookstores: Raising Godly Children, Understanding Motherhood, Building A Successful Family and Success in Marriage (Co-Author).

Pastor Faith Oyedepo is the wife of Bishop David Oyedepo, the founder of the Living Faith Church Worldwide a.k.a. Winners' Chapel, and Senior Pastor of Faith Tabernacle, Canaanland, Ota, Nigeria.

Here's an edited and developed version in simple English, organized into clear paragraphs while preserving the main message of the sermon.

News

INEC Plans Digital Voter Cards for 2027 Polls

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), has said it plans to introduce downloadable Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) as part of efforts to improve Nigeria's election system before the 2027 general elections. The new system is expected to help voters who have lost or damaged their voter cards so they can still take part in elections without unnecessary stress.

INEC Chairman, Prof. Joash Amupitan, announced the plan recently while receiving the Director-General of the National Orientation Agency (NOA), Mallam Lanre Issa-Onilu, during a courtesy visit to the commission's headquarters in Abuja.

He explained that the downloadable PVC will only be available to people who had already collected their original physical voter cards but later lost or damaged them. He said the system will not apply to first-time voters or anyone who has never collected a physical PVC.

According to him, any voter who loses or damages a PVC must report it to INEC at least 90 days before an election. This will allow the commission enough time to confirm the person's details and issue a downloadable replacement.

Prof. Amupitan also said INEC plans to test the new digital voter card during the Osun State governorship election scheduled for August. He said the trial will help the commission know how well the system works before expanding it to other elections across the country.

The INEC chairman also revealed that the commission is working on a new online voter registration system. The platform will allow eligible Nigerians to complete their voter registration online without going to an INEC office for biometric registration.

He said the online registration platform is almost ready and will be tested in the coming days after it receives the commission's final approval.

Prof. Amupitan said these new digital services are aimed at making voter registration easier, helping more eligible Nigerians take part in elections, and making the country's election process faster, simpler, and more convenient.



INEC Chairman, Prof. Amupitan



NUJ President, Alhassan Yahaya (middle) with other stakeholders during a public Book Presentation in Abuja recently

Stakeholders Advocate Cultural Reawakening For National Unity, Good Governance

Stories From Sophina Ovuike, Abuja

Stakeholders have identified the revival of Nigeria's cultural and moral values as a critical pathway to strengthening national unity, improving governance, tackling insecurity and promoting sustainable development.

The position was canvassed recently, in Abuja, during the public presentation of Nigeria: Culture and Values, a book published by the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) in collaboration with O&I Contact Limited.

The event attracted government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, traditional rulers, academics, media practitioners, civil society organizations, development partners and other prominent Nigerians.

Speakers maintained that restoring values such as integrity, patriotism, justice, accountability and peaceful co-existence would help address many of the nation's social, economic and security challenges while reinforcing democratic institutions.

Delivering the keynote address on behalf of the NUI President, Comrade Alhassan Yahaya, the National Secretary of the union, Achike G. Chude, described the publication as a timely national intervention aimed at rekindling Nigeria's shared cultural identity.

He said Nigeria's rich cultural heritage offers practical solutions to contemporary challenges, including insecurity, poor governance and declining moral standards.

According to him, political leaders should embrace indigenous values of honesty, transparency, justice, accountability and mutual respect, noting that the country's cultural diversity should be harnessed as a unifying force rather than exploited for political interests.

He also stressed that lasting security cannot be achieved through military operations alone, calling for greater collaboration with traditional institutions, religious leaders and community-based organisations that enjoy the confidence of the people.

The NUI leadership further urged journalists to remain committed to factual, balanced and development-focused reporting, capable of fostering national progress and enhancing Nigeria's image globally.

It also highlighted the country's creative industry – include film, music, literature, fashion and the arts which has a viable non-oil sector with immense potential for job creation, investment and global cultural influence.

Speaking on the motivation behind the publication, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of O&I Contact Limited, Mr. Isaac Osaikhiwu, said the book documents Nigeria's rich cultural heritage while examining the relationship between culture, governance and national development.

He explained that the publication seeks to preserve the country's cultural identity and encourage citizens to uphold values of integrity, accountability, hard work, justice and patriotism.

Osaikhiwu expressed confidence that the book would inspire ethical leadership and responsible citizenship as essential ingredients for national transformation.

Other speakers urged governments at all levels to formulate policies that reflect Nigeria's shared cultural values, describing the nation's diversity as a source of strength that should be harnessed to promote unity and development.

In his goodwill message, the Director of International Liaison, Forward Bola Ahmed Tinubu 2027, Chief Wisdom Chukwuma Okoye (Ozo Amamaife Chukwu I of Izuokoma Kingdom), described the publication as a valuable contribution to national consciousness and cultural preservation.

He encouraged Nigerians to serve as worthy ambassadors of the country wherever they find themselves, noting that Nigeria's cultural diversity remains one of its greatest assets. He also commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his commitment to national development and citizens' welfare.

Court Sentences Ex-driver To Death For Murder Of Elderly Couple In Abuja

A former driver, Jonathan Marcus, has been sentenced to death by hanging by the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court, for the murder of an elderly couple, Adebola Ezekiel, 80, and his wife, Abiodun Ezekiel, at their residence in Apo Legislative Quarters, Abuja.

The development was disclosed in a statement issued by the FCT Police Public Relations Officer, SP Josephine Adeh, on July 1, 2026.

The conviction followed the successful prosecution of

the case by the FCT Police Command after an extensive investigation into the killings, which occurred on April 1, 2024, in Zone D of the Apo Legislative Quarters.

According to the police, the suspect fled to Obajana in Kogi State shortly after the incident but was traced, arrested and returned to Abuja to face trial.

Investigations revealed that Marcus had previously worked as the couple's driver before his employment was terminated following a series of disagreements with his

employers.

Police further disclosed that the convict confessed to breaking into the victims' residence at about 11 p.m. on the night of the attack, where he murdered the elderly couple before fleeing the scene.

During the trial, prosecutors presented evidence linking the defendant to the crime, which the court found sufficient to establish his guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

In his judgment, Justice M. S. Idris convicted Marcus on two counts of murder and

sentenced him to death by hanging in accordance with the law.

Reacting to the verdict, the FCT Police Command described the judgment as a significant milestone in its efforts to combat violent crime and ensure justice for victims of criminal acts.

The command reaffirmed its commitment to protecting lives and property across the Federal Capital Territory and pledged to continue pursuing criminal suspects to ensure they are brought before the law.

Eno Honours Corps Member

From Lovina Emole, Uyo

Governor Umo Eno of Akwa-Ibom State has celebrated one Mary Etim, a National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) member, serving in Abuja, for her appreciation video which has since gone viral on social media.

Etim, had in the short video appreciated governor Eno for approving recent payment of N80,000 to all corp members of Akwalbom origin serving in any state, as well as corp members from any state posted to Akwa-Ibom State.

Pleased by her gesture, the governor said such attitude should serve as a lesson to many beneficiaries of government interventions who often fail to appreciate the support they receive.

Governor Eno said he was deeply touched by the video, noting that Mary's excitement over receiving N80,000 was as though she had received N8 million.

He said, "I watched the video and was genuinely impressed. Thank you for producing such a beautiful and sincere message of appreciation. It is refreshing to see someone acknowledge a good gesture."

"The initiative complements the Federal Government's support for corps members and helps them meet transportation costs and other basic needs during their service year."

Speaking, Etim thanked Governor Eno for his generosity and commitment to the welfare of corps members, saying all eligible corps members in the state have benefited from the initiative.

Also speaking, the Commissioner for Youth Development, Dr. Ekerete Ekanem commended the governor for ensuring that both Akwa-Ibom indigenes serving outside the state and non-indigenes serving within the state received the allowance.

He noted that even corps members whose names were initially omitted were later captured and paid.

Photos Speak



Gov Alex Otti of Abia State (c) pose with some participants, during the Abia Governor Alex Otti's keynote lecture at the University of Northampton's Annual Conference on Racial Justice in the United Kingdom.



Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti (c) pose with some participants, during the Gov Alex Otti's keynote lecture at the University of Northampton's Annual Conference on Racial Justice in the United Kingdom.



Gov Alex Otti of Abia State (c) and members of the University of Northampton, during the Gov Alex Otti of Abia's keynote lecture at the University of Northampton's Annual Conference on Racial Justice in the United Kingdom.



Governor Alex Otti of Abia State (centre) poses with some participants following his keynote lecture at the University of Northampton's Annual Conference on Racial Justice in the United Kingdom.



A cross-section of participants during Governor Alex Otti's keynote lecture at the University of Northampton's Annual Conference on Racial Justice in the United Kingdom.



One of the participants asking a question to the keynote speaker, Governor Alex Otti of Abia State, during Governor Alex Otti's keynote lecture at the University of Northampton's Annual Conference on Racial Justice in the United Kingdom.



Bayelsa State Governor, Senator Douye Diri (4th left), with members of the eight-man committee set up to address the leadership crisis in the Ijaw National Congress (INC) at Government House, Yenagoa.



The traditional ruler and Paramount Ruler of the Abiriba Ancient Kingdom, HRM Eze Kalu Kalu Ogbu IV (3rd R) and other members of Abia North Senatorial Zone Stakeholders, as Leaders of a Non-Political, and Nonpartisan Group, Alliance for Good Governance in Abia State, Stakeholders, Captains of Industry and Accomplished Professionals from Abia North Senatorial Zone unanimously endorsed Gov Alex Otti, for a second term at Abiriba, Ohafia LGA of Abia State.

Photos Speak



Secretary to the State Government, Dr. Emmanuel Meribole (left), being welcomed by the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Agriculture, Umudike, Prof. Ursula Akanwa, during the 3rd International Conference of Michael Okpara College of Education, held recently.



Abia State Commissioner for Information, Prince Okey Kanu (front row, fourth from right), with other state delegates during a group photograph at a Media Retreat held recently in Abuja.



Chief (Engr.) Chukwuodozie Richard Imah (right), the Onowu (Traditional Prime Minister) of Ndigbo, Ejigbo, Lagos State, and Chief Ike Orika (left), a former Abia State governorship aspirant and member of the Board of Trustees of the Greater Ohafia Development Agency (GODA), during a recent event.



The General Manager, Abia Newspapers and Publishing Corporation (ANPC), Umuahia, Chief Jones Nnanna Ike (middle), making remarks during a two-day strategic media retreat for government spokespersons and other media managers, held recently in Abuja.



Abia State Deputy Gov, Engr Ikechukwu Emetu (1st R) in a hand shake with the Station Manager, Don FM, Umuahia (1st L) while others watches, during the 2026 Annual Conference of Society of Nigerian Broadcasters, Abia State Chapter, held at the Women Development Centre, Umuahia.



Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Dr. Emmanuel Meribole (5th right); the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Agriculture, Umudike, Prof. Ursula Akanwa (6th right); Dcn. Chukwuemeka Egejuru, anipr, Editor, Abia Newspaper and Publishing Corporation, representing the General Manager of the Corporation; Hon. Nnenna Jones Ike (4th left); and other dignitaries during the 3rd International Conference of Michael Okpara College of Education, held recently.



Mrs. Betty Friday-Okezie (Left) and Mrs. Ada Okore (Right), during a send-forth ceremony held recently in their honour at the Broadcasting Corporation of Abia (BCA), Umuahia, Abia State.



Abia State Deputy Gov, Engr Ikechukwu Emetu (5th L), Chairman of the Society of Nigerian Broadcasters, Abia State Chapter, Comr. Chinezerem Agbakuru (5th L), Station Manager, Mr Ugochukwu Emezue and others, during the 2026 Annual Conference of Society of Nigerian Broadcasters, Abia State Chapter, held at the Women Development Centre, Umuahia.



GOVERNMENT OF ABIA STATE OF NIGERIA

ABIA STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD (ASUBEB)
 P. M. B 7278 UMUAHIA, ABIA STATE.

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR YEAR 2024 AND 2025 UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION (UBE) INTERVENTION PROJECTS

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Abia State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB) is a State Agency established under Law No. 9 of 2004 by the Abia State House of Assembly, and mandated to oversee the implementation, management, and regulation of Basic Education delivery across the State. The Board is responsible for administering and executing policies, programs, and projects aimed at ensuring qualitative teaching and learning in all Basic Schools. Its scope of operation encompasses all Early Child Care Development Education (ECCDE), Primary, and Junior Secondary Schools in Abia State, ensuring the effective implementation of educational initiatives to foster academic excellence and sustainable development. Experienced and competent companies/ firms are hereby invited to submit bids for the procurement of infrastructural projects under the UBE year 2024 and 2025 Intervention Projects.

2. SCOPE OF WORK

The Abia State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB), Umuahia, in collaboration with the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), Abuja, intends to utilize the Federal Government's UBE Intervention Funds allocated for the years 2024 and 2025 to implement various infrastructural projects. These projects include the construction and renovation of classroom blocks, procurement of Teaching and Learning Materials and essential equipment to enhance Early Child Care Development Education (ECCDE), Primary, and Junior Secondary Education across the State. In light of this, the scope of procurement of goods, works and services includes, but not limited to:

**PROCUREMENT OF WORKS
 UBE YEAR 2024**

S/N	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	LGA	LOT NO
1	CONSTRUCTION CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILET	SAMIZI CENTRAL SCHOOL,	AMIZIUMUAHIA-SOUTH	P01
2	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	NDIAKATA COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	OBINGWA	P02
3	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	EZIAMA NTIGHA MIGRANT FARMERS SCHOOL	ISIALA NGWA NORTH	P03
4	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	ACHARA UTURU COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ISUIKWUATO	P04
5	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	ISIEKE CENTRAL SCHOOL	UMUAHIA NORTH	P05
6	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	OKWU PRIMARY SCHOOL, OKWU, OLOKORO	UMUAHIA-SOUTH	P06
7	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	OFEME CENTRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL	Umuahia North	P07
8	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	MIGRANT FARMERS' PRIMARY SCHOOL	IKPOKWU ASAUKWA WEST	P08
9	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	AKASI PRIMARY SCHOOL	Arochukwu	P09
10	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL,	AZUMINIUKWA EAST	P10
11	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	ITUNGWA COMMUNITY SCHOOL,	ITUNGWA Obingwa	P11
12	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	MBASO IHIE OBEAKU COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL,	MBASO IHIE OBEAKU Ugunwanagbo	P12

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S/N	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	LGA	LOT NO
13	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	UMUNKPEYI COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ISIALA NGWA SOUTH	P13
14	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	UBAHA COMMUNITY SCHOOL, UBAHA	ISIALA NGWA NORTH	P14
RENOVATIONS/REHABILITATION				
S/N	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	LGA	LOT NO
15	5 CLASSROOM WITH OFFICES BLOCK	NDI OKPO PRIMARY SCHOOL IHECHOWA	AROCHUKWU	P15
16	6 CLASSROOM BLOCK RENOVATE	AVOR CENTRAL SCHOOL UMUERIM	ISIALA NGWA NORTH	P16
17	SCHOOL HALL	EZIAMA COMMUNITY SCHOOL, EZIAMA	ABA NORTH	P17
18	4 CLASSROOM BLOCK /OFFICE/STORE	NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL	ABA SOUTH	P18
19	RECONSTRUCT 4 CLASSROOM BLOCK WITH OFFICE (A)	EZECHI CENTRAL SCHOOL, UMUHU EZECHI	BENDE	P19
20	BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS (B)	EZECHI CENTRAL SCHOOL, UMUHU EZECHI	BENDE	P20
21	BLOCK OF 5 CLASSROOMS (C)	AMAWOM COMMUNITY SCHOOL	IKWUANO	P21
22	4 CLASSROOM BLOCK	EKEBEDI COMMUNITY SCHOOL	IKWUANO	P22
23	BLOCK OF 4 CLASS ROOMS	AMAUBIRI PRIMARY SCHOOL, LOKPAUKWUUM	UMUNNEOCHI	P23
24	BLOCK OF 4 CLASS ROOMS	IKPUTU COMMUNITY SCHOOL, IKPUTU	ISIALA NGWA NORTH	P24
25	BLOCK OF 5 CLASS ROOMS	AMACHI COMMUNITY SCHOOL, AMACHI	ISIALA NGWA NORTH	P25
26	BLOCK A 4 CLASSROOM BLOCK/OFFICE RENOVATE	COMPREHENSIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL, OHURU - NDOKI	IUKWA EAST	P26
27	4 CLASSROOM BLOCK	AMANO UMUIROMA COMMUNITY SCHOOL	OBINGWA	P28
28	6 CLASSROOM BLOCK (L SHAPE)	UMUACHA/AMUZU COMMUNITY SCHOOL, UMUACHA	ISIALA NGWA SOUTH	P29
29	6 CLASSROOMS, 1 OFFICE, 1 STORE	UMUASUA CENTRAL SCHOOL	ISUIKWUATO	P30
30	4 CLASSROOMS BLOCK,1 OFFICE	NNEOYI COMMUNITY SCHOOL, OPRO AHABA	ISIALA NGWA SOUTH	P31
31	4 CLASSROOMS BLOCK,1 OFFICE,1 STORE	AMUMA SECONDARY SCHOOL, OHAFIA	OHAFIA	P33
32	4 CLASSROOM BLCK AND 1 OFFICE	UMUBAGHI MIGRANT FARMERS SCHOOL	UGWUNAGBO	P36
33	5 CLASSROOM BLOCK	SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOL, OBEGU	UGWUNAGBO	P37
34	4 CLASSROOM BLOCK WITH 4 STORES	WORLD BANK PRIMARY SCHOOL	UMUAHIA NORTH	P38
35	4 CLASSROOM BLCK AND 1 OFFICE (L SHAPED)	UMUDIAWA PRIMARY SCHOOL	UMUAHIA NORTH	P39
36	5 CLASSROOM, 2 STORES, 1 OFFICE (U SHAPED)	UMUDIAWA PRIMARY SCHOOL	UMUAHIA NORTH	P40
37	3 CLASSROOM BLOCK WITH 2 OFFICES	UMUODE COMMUNITY SCHOOL I	OSISIOMA	P41
38	3 CLASSROOMS, HALL AND OFFICE	EZELEKE PRIMARY SCHOOL	UMUAHIA SOUTH	P43
39	3 CLASSROOM 1 HALL 1 OFFICE	EZELEKE PRIMARY SCHOOL	UMUAHIA SOUTH	P44
40	3 CLASSROOM BLOCK/ HALL	UMUEKECHI HIGH SCHOOL, UMUEKECHI ASA (JUNIOR)	UKWA WEST	P45

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PROCUREMENT OF GOODS YEAR 2024

S/N	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	LGA	LOT NO	
1	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	AHUWA COMMUNITY SCHOOL	IKWUANO	Q07	
2	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	OKWU PRIMARY SCHOOL, OKWU, OLOKORO	UMUAHIA-SOUTH	Q08	
3	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	OFEME CENTRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL	UMUAHIA NORTH	Q09	
4	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	ELUAMA COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ISUIKWUATO	Q10	
5	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	LOKPAUKWU COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	UMUNNEOCHI	Q11	
6	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	MIGRANT FARMERS' PRIMARY SCHOOL IKPOKWU ASA	UKWA WEST	Q12	
7	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	LOKPANTA NATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL	UMUNNEOCHI	Q13	
8	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	URU PRIMARY SCHOOL, UMUCHEIZE LOKPAUKWU	UMUNNEOCHI	Q14	
9	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	NKWOPA COMMUNITY SCHOOL	UMUAHIA NORTH	Q15	
10	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	UMUOBIALA JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL	ISUIKWUATO	Q16	
11	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	AVOR NTIGHA CENTRAL SCHOOL,UMUERIM	ISIALA NGWA NORTH	Q17	
12	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	IHECHIOWA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.OBINTO	AROCHUKWU	Q18	
13	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	MBATO SECONDARY SCHOOL UMUNGALAGU NVOSI	ISIALA NGWA SOUTH	Q19	
14	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	OLOKORO JSS	UMUAHIA SOUTH	Q20	
15	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	OMUKWU UKPAI COMMUNITY SCHOOL,OZU ABAM	AROCHUKWU	Q21	
16	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	UTUTU CENTRAL SCHOOL 1	AROCHUKWU	Q22	
17	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	AKASI PRIMARY SCHOOL, AMAKOFIA UTUTU	AROCHUKWU	Q23	
18	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	NDIAKATA COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	OBINGWA	Q26	
19	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	MGBOKO UMUOCHA COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL	OBINGWA	Q27	
20	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	EZIAMA MGBOKO CENTRAL SCHOOL OBINGWA	OBINGWA	Q29	
21	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	UMULE PRIMARY SCHOOL	UMUAHIA NORTH	Q31	
22	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	UMUDIAWA PRIMARY SCHOOL	UMUAHIA NORTH	Q32	
23	PROVISION OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	EZELEKE PRIMARY SCHOOL 1 & 2	UMUAHIA SOUTH	Q33	
24	PROCURE AND DISTRIBUTE MATHEMATICS / NUMERACY TEXTBOOKS TO PRIMARY 1 -3 LEARNERS IN ALL SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATES	SELECTED SCHOOLS IN STATES	17 LGAS	Q84	
25	PROCURE AND DISTRIBUTE ENGLISH / LITERACY TEXTBOOKS TO PRIMARY 1-3 LEARNERS IN ALL SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATES	SELECTED SCHOOLS IN STATES	17LGAS	Q85	
26	PURCHASE OF 2022 INNOSON (IVM) HLUX VAN FOR SUPERVISION AND MONITORING	SUBEB HEADQUARTERS	UMUAHIA NORTH	Q88	
27	PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF HP LAPTOPS, 4 GB RAM, 500GB HDD ACROSS 170 SCHOOLS (8/ SCHOOL) IN THE STATE	SELECTED SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE	17 LGAS	Q153	
28	PROCUREMENT OF MONITORING VEHICLE MICRO BUSES FOR 10 LGEAS FOR MONITORING EXERCISES	SUBEB HEADQUARTERS	UMUAHIA NORTH	Q173	
29	PROCUREMENT OF MONITORING VEHICLE BRAND NEW 2024 HILUX FOR MONITORING OF SCHOOLS ACROSS ALL LGEAS	SUBEB HEADQUARTERS	UMUAHIA NORTH	Q174	
30	PURCHASE OF 4 X 4 HILUX MONITORING VEHICLE AND ALLOWANCE/FUELLING	SUBEB HEADQUARTERS	UMUAHIA NORTH	Q180	
S/N.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	LGA	QTY	LOT NO
1	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	MIGRANT FARMERS NUR/PRIMARY SCHOOL, LODU NDUME IBEKU	UMUAHIA	1	R01
2	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, AKIRIKA	OBUUKWA EAST	1	R02
3	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	UMUODE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL 1	OSISIOMA	1	R03
4	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	UKEBE MIGRANT SCHOOL	UGWUNAGBO	1	R04
5	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	OGBOR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL	ABA NORTH	1	R05
6	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	LOKPANTA NATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL	UMUNNEOCHI	1	R06
7	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	UKPACHA COMMUNITY SCHOOL, UKPACHA	OHAFIA	1	R07
8	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	AMASAA COMMUNITY SCHOOL,URATTA	ISIALA- NGWA NORTH	1	R08
9	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	MIGRANT PRIMARY SCHOOL,UKOME	UMUAHIA NORTH	1	R09

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S/N.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	LGA	QTY	LOT NO
10	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	ONYERUBI COMPREHENSIVE JSS, NDI OJI ABAM	AROCHUKWU	1	R10
11	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	UMUACHA AMUZU CENTRAL SCHOOL	ISIALA- NGWA SOUTH	1	R11
12	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	ABA UKWU MIGRANT SCHOOL	ABA SOUTH	1	R12
13	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	UMUOSU COMMUNITY SCHOOL 1, UMUOSU	UMUAHIA SOUTH	1	R13
14	CONSTRUCTION OF A BLOCK OF CLASSROOMS WITH 1 OFFICE AND 8 TOILETS	OBUAKU CITY NOMADIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, OBUAKU	UKWA WEST	1	R14
RENOVATIONS					
15	4 CLASSROOM 2 OFFICES (U BLOCK)	UPOROTO COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ISUIKWUATO	1	R15
16	BLOCK OF 5 CLASSROOMS	AKOLI IMENYI CENTRAL SCHOOL	BENDE	1	R16
17	BLOCK OF 4 CLASSROOMS (BLOCK B)	UMUNNATO PRIMARY SCHOOL AMAEKE ITEM	BENDE	1	R17
18	1 HALL 2 OFFICES (BLOCK A)	UMUNNATO PRIMARY SCHOOL AMAEKE ITEM	BENDE	1	R18
19	3 CLASSROOM 1 OFFICE	ASA OKPUAJA MIGRANT FARMERS PRIMARY SCHOOL, ASA OKPULOR	ABA NORTH	1	R19
20	3 CLASSROOM 2 OFFICES	NEW UMUAHIA PRIMARY SCHOOL II, ABA	ABA NORTH	1	R20
21	4 CLASSROOM BLOCK	GIRLS TECHNICAL COLLEGE, UMUOL	AABA NORTH	1	R21
22	4 CLASSROOM 2 OFFICES	OKWUTA COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, OKWUTA UMUAHIA	UMUAHIA NORTH	1	R22
23	4 CLASSROOM 2 OFFICES	FISHER PRIMARY SCHOOL, UMUAHIA	UMUAHIA NORTH	1	R23
25	4 CLASSROOM 2 OFFICES (L SHAPED)	UMUNNEISI MIGRANT FARMERS SCHOOL, UMUNNEISI	ABA SOUTH	1	R25
26	BLK OF 4 CLASSROOMS WITH OFFICE	TOWNSHIP SCHOOL UZUAKOLI	BENDE	1	R26
28	5 CLASSROOM, 2 OFFICES	OMUKWU UKPAI COMMUNITY SCHOOL, OZU ABAM	AROCHUKWU	1	R28
29	BLK OF 3 CLASSES WITH OFF AND STORE	OMUKWU UKPAI COMMUNITY SCHOOL, OZU ABAM	AROCHUKWU	1	R29
30	BLK OF 3 CLASSES WITH OFF AND STORE	UMUDIKE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	IKWUANO	1	R30
31	BLK OF 4 CLASSES WITH OFFICE, STORE & TOILETS	AMA OBA IME MIGRANT FARMERS PRIMARY SCHOOL, AMA OBA	IKWUANO	1	R31
33	BLK OF 6 CLASSES WITH OFFICE AND STORE	MIGRANT FARMER PRY SCHOOL OBIGA	UKWA WEST	1	R33
36	BLK OF 3 CLASSES	ISIEKETA CENTRAL SCHOOL, ISIEKETA	ISIALANGWA SOUTH	1	R36
38	BLK OF 3 CLASSES WITH OFFICE	NDIOLUMBE COMMUNITY SCHOOL 1, NDIOLUMBE	ISIALANGWA SOUTH	1	R38
39	BLOCK OF 3 CLASSES WITH 2 OFFICES	AMA EKPU COMMUNITY SCHOOL	OHAFIA	1	R39
40	BLOCK OF 3 CLASSES WITH OFFICE AND STORE	AMA EKPU COMMUNITY SCHOOL	OHAFIA	1	R40
43	BLOCK OF 3 CLASSES WITH OFFICE	OBIMGBOKO AMAISII TECHNICAL SCHOOL UMUOCHA	OBINGWA	1	R43
48	BLK OF 3 CLASSES	AKPUKPA COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL UTURU	ISUIKWUATO	1	R48
49	BLOCK A 4 CLASSROOM BLOCK RENOVATE	CENTRAL SCHOOL OHURU	UKWA EAST	1	R49
50	BLOCK B RENOVATE 3 CLASSROOM BLOCK/ OFFICE/STORE MIGRANT FARMER PRY SCHOOL	UMUOGBOR	UKWA EAST	1	R50
52	BLOCK A 3 CLASSROOM RENOVATE	IHIE HIGH SCHOOL IHIE	ISIALANGWA NORTH	1	R52

PROCUREMENT OF GOODS UBE YEAR 2025

S/N	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	LGA	LOT NO
1	PROCUREMENT OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	UMOSU UBAKALA PRIMARY SCHOOL	UMUAHIA SOUTH	R92
2	PROCUREMENT OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	EZECHI CENTRAL SCHOOL UMUHU EZECHI	BENDE	R95
3	PROCUREMENT OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	EZEUKWU CENTRAL & TECHNICAL SEC SCHOOL	BENDE	R96
4	PROCUREMENT OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	OHIYA SEC SCHOOL	UMUAHIA SOUTH	R97
5	PROCUREMENT OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	IKEAHA PRIMARY SCHOOL	UMUAHIA NORTH	R100
6	PROCUREMENT OF PLASTIC LOCKERS AND CHAIRS	UMUOKEREKE MIGRANT PRIMARY SCHOOL	UMUAHIA NORTH	R102
7	PROCURE AND DISTRIBUTE MATHEMATICS / NUMERACY TEXTBOOKS TO PRIMARY LEARNERS IN SELECTED SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATES	SELECTED SCHOOLS ACROSS 17 LGAS	17 LGAS	R155

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

PROCUREMENT OF GOODS YEAR 2024

S/N	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	LGA	LOT NO
8	PROCURE AND DISTRIBUTE ENGLISH / LITERACY TEXTBOOKS TO PRIMARY LEARNERS IN SELECTED SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATES	SELECTED SCHOOLS ACROSS 17 LGAS	17 LGAS	R156
9	PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF HP LAPTOPS, 4 GB RAM, 500GB HDD ACROSS 170 SCHOOLS (8/ SCHOOL) IN THE STATE	SUBEB HEADQUARTERS	UMUAHIA NORTH	R191
10	PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF HP LAPTOPS, 4 GB RAM, 500GB HDD ACROSS SCHOOLS IN THE STATE	SUBEB HEADQUARTERS	UMUAHIA NORTH	R197
11	PROCUREMENT OF MONITORING VEHICLE - TOYOTA HUMMER 2025 MODEL BUS	SUBEB HEADQUARTERS	UMUAHIA NORTH	R217
12	PURCHASE OF 4 X 4 HILUX MONITORING VEHICLE AND ALLOWANCE/FUELLING	SUBEB HEADQUARTERS	UMUAHIA NORTH	R225

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Evidence of Certificate of Incorporation with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) including form CAC2 and CAC7;
- Evidence of Company Income's Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years valid till 31st December, 2026 with minimum average turnover of N150,000,000 only.
- Evidence of current Pension Compliance Certificate valid till 31st December, 2026.
- Evidence of current Industrial Training Fund (ITF) Compliance Certificate valid till 31st December, 2026.
- Evidence of current Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) Compliance Certificate valid till 31st December, 2026.
- Evidence of Registration on the National Database of Federal Contractors and Service Providers by submission of Interim Registration Report (IRR) valid till 31st December, 2026 issued by BPP.
- Company's Audited Accounts for the last three (3) years ending December 2023, 2024 and 2025.
- Company profile with Curriculum Vitae of Key Personnel/ Staff to be deployed in the project and with evidence of previous work experience, detail clients, nature of work/contract, contract sum and copies of academic and professional qualification. i.e COREN, QSRBN, ARCON etc. not less than 6 years in practice.
- Verifiable documentary evidence of similar projects not less than N100 million executed in the last three (3) years including Letters of Award, Valuation and Completion Certificates as well as Photographs of the projects;
- Evidence of Financial Capability to execute the Projects by provision of line of credit of not less than Seven Million Naira to be provided by a reputable Commercial Bank.
- Sworn Affidavit disclosing whether or not any officer of the relevant committees of the Abia State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB), or the Bureau of Public Procurement 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 all particulars.
- An affidavit that none of the Directors have been convicted in any country for any criminal offence, including fraud or financial impropriety.
- List of Plants/Equipment with proof of Ownership/Lease
- Other requirements shall be submitted as prescribed in the BPP's Revised Standard Bidding Documents.
- All documents for submission must be transmitted with a Covering/forwarding letter under the company's/firm's letter headed paper bearing amongst others, the Registration number (RC), Contact address, Telephone number and E-mail address. The letter headed paper must bear the Names and Nationalities of the Directors of the company, duly signed by the authorized officer of the company/firm.
- Documents submitted shall be subject to due diligence without recourse to the bidder.

4. COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Interested companies are to collect the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) from the office of the Head of Procurement; Abia State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB), at e-library Ogorube Layout Umuahia, with evidence of payment of Registration Fee of One Hundred Thousand naira (N100,000) only and a Non-refundable Tender Fee of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (N100,000.00) only for Procurement of Works per lot and One Hundred Thousand Naira (N100,000.00) only for Procurement of Goods and Services per lot, to 'Abia State Pay Direct Account' with customized teller at any bank. Evidence of such Payments is to be presented at the Cash Office, Abia State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB), for

5. SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Prospective bidders are to submit a bid for the Lot, two (2) hard copies each of Technical and Financial Bids packaged separately in sealed envelopes and marked as "Technical Bid" or "Financial Bid" with the name of the company boldly written at the reverse side. Thereafter, put the two sealed envelopes together in a bigger sealed envelope and address them to The EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, ABIA STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD, P. M. B 7278 UMUAHIA, ABIA STATE, and clearly mark the name of the project and the lot boldly at the back of the envelope.

Furthermore, the well packaged bid document shall be dropped in the designated tender box at the Procurement Office, Abia State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB), not later than 12:00 noon on Wednesday, 5th August, 2026. The working hours are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on weekdays, excluding weekends. Please ensure that you sign the bid submission register in the office of the Head of Procurement of the ASUBEB as the Board will

6. OPENING OF BIDS.

The technical bids will be opened immediately after the close of submission at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, 5th August, 2026, at Conference Room, Abia State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB) Umuahia in the presence of bidders or their representatives and civil society organizations. The financial bids, however, will remain unopened. The successful bidder will be invited to the financial bid opening after the evaluation of the technical bids. Please ensure you sign the Bid Submission Register in the office of the Head of Procurement, located at the first floor (Left Wing) of the Abia State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB) Temporal Office, E-library Ogorube Layout, Umuahia. The Board will not be held liable for any misplaced or wrongly submitted bid. For further inquiries, please contact **The Executive Chairman** via email. AbiaSUBEB@abaiastate.gov.ng and telephone number 07076904864.

7. GENERAL INFORMATION

- Bids must be in the English Language and signed by an authorized official of the firm;
- Bids submitted after the deadline for submission would be rejected and returned unopened;
- Delivery by courier will not be accepted;
- All costs incurred as a result of the bid invitation shall be borne by the bidders;
- The Board is not bound to consider any bidder for an award and reserves the right to cancel the bidding process and proceeding, without incurring liabilities to the bidders;
- Only successful bidders in the technical evaluation will be invited for the opening of their financial bids;
- The Abia State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB) is not bound to shortlist any bidder and reserves the right to annul the Procurement process at any time without incurring any liabilities in line with section 28 of the Public Procurement Act, 2007.
- Abia State Universal Basic Education Board is not obliged to award the contract to the lowest bidder.

Signed:

LYDIA ONUOHA
Executive Chairman

Abia State Universal Basic Education Board,
(ASUBEB), Umuahia.

Concluded

Foreign News

German Coalition Announces Major Economic Reforms To Boost Growth

Germany's ruling coalition has announced a major set of economic reforms aimed at improving the economy. The plans include tax cuts for low-income workers, changes to the pension system, and more affordable housing as Chancellor Friedrich Merz's government tries to strengthen Europe's biggest economy.

The reforms, recently, are meant to speed up economic recovery and deal with problems that have slowed growth in recent years. The government is also facing growing political pressure, with recent opinion polls showing the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) ahead of the ruling coalition.

The package also includes plans to cut red tape, stop welfare fraud, and end the use of telephone-issued sick notes for workers. In addition, the government plans to reduce the number of employees in federal ministries by about eight percent through greater use of digital technology and administrative changes.

To pay for the tax cuts, the

coalition plans to increase the top income tax rate from 45 percent to 47 percent for people earning €280,000 or more a year, meaning the country's highest earners will pay more in taxes.

Many economists have welcomed the proposals, calling them one of Germany's biggest reform plans in decades. Marion

Muehlberger of Deutsche Bank Research said the coalition has shown it can agree on major reforms and put them in place before the end of the year. She added that the measures could improve business confidence and help the economy grow faster.

The government says the reforms are meant to make Germany more competitive, support businesses, and strengthen the economy as companies face tougher global competition and ongoing economic uncertainty.

Germany's economy has found it difficult to fully recover since the COVID-19 pandemic. Increased competition from China and higher energy costs first caused by the war in Ukraine and more recently by tensions involving Iran have added pressure on the country's export-based economy.

Because of these challenges, the government earlier this year reduced its economic growth forecast for 2026 to 0.5 percent and lowered its 2027 forecast to 0.9 percent from an earlier estimate of 1.3 percent. It also raised its inflation forecast as high energy prices continue to affect businesses and consumers, highlighting the need for the new reform plans.

Source: Arise TV

Source: Arise TV

Japan Changes Strategy To Protect The Yen From Currency Speculators

Japan is changing the way it supports the value of the yen by using surprise interventions to catch currency traders off guard, according to people familiar with the plan.

In the past, Japanese officials often warned the market before stepping in to buy the yen. Now, the government plans to act without any advance notice, making it harder for traders who are betting that the yen will continue to lose value.

The Ministry of Finance also no longer wants to suggest a specific exchange rate that would trigger intervention. Instead of defending a set level,

officials will decide to act based on how much speculative trading is putting pressure on the yen.

The new approach is meant to make government action less predictable and discourage investors from betting against the Japanese currency.

The move comes as the Bank of Japan continues to warn that a weak yen is hurting the economy by making imported goods more expensive and adding to inflation.

Even after raising interest rates last month, Bank of Japan officials have said the falling Yen remains a concern because it increases

the cost of imports and pushes up prices.

Deputy Governor Ryozo Himino said in June that movements in the exchange rate are important for Japan's economy and inflation, warning that a weaker yen could continue to drive up prices.

Japan spent a record ¥11.7 trillion (about \$72 billion) to support the yen between late April and early May. Despite those efforts, the currency later fell again, reaching a 40-year low of 162.66 yen per US dollar this week.

One source said any future intervention would be carefully timed to have the

biggest impact on speculators.

"The goal is to hit speculators hard. If necessary, the authorities will step in at the right moment," the source said.

The source added that the government is no longer focused on defending a particular exchange rate but on preventing excessive and rapid declines in the yen.

Finance Minister Satoshi Katayama has avoided making strong public comments about the yen's recent weakness, saying only that Japan is ready to "respond appropriately" if needed.

Analysts believe this

silence is deliberate and is meant to make any government intervention more difficult for the market to predict.

Rinto Maruyama, an FX and rates strategist at SMBC Nikko Securities, said that by saying very little about the yen, officials are making it harder for traders to guess when Japan might intervene next.

Investors are also watching US economic data and the Federal Reserve's interest rate decisions, as these could affect the strength of the US dollar and increase or reduce pressure on the yen.

Entertainment

Money And Fame Are Affecting Nigerian Artists' Creativity, Says Portable

Controversial Nigerian singer Habeeb Okikiola Badmus, better known as Portable, has said that money and fame are affecting the creativity of some of Nigeria's biggest music stars.

In a video shared online, the "Zazu" singer said that successful artists like Wizkid, Davido, Burna Boy, and Olamide have become too comfortable because of their wealth and fame. According to him, they have lost touch with the everyday struggles of ordinary people and now mostly sing about women, luxury, and expensive lifestyles.

Portable said their songs no longer inspire people or teach

meaningful lessons. He encouraged them to return to making music that motivates listeners and carries important messages, adding that money is not the most important thing in



life.

He also advised his fellow artists to include more gospel and conscious music in their work.

Portable said, "I have noticed that Davido, Wizkid, Burna Boy, and Olamide don't praise God in their songs. They mostly sing about women. Is it because they already have money and think they can never fall? Their songs don't motivate people. They have no meaningful message, just songs about women and vanity.

"Make conscious music. We are tired of songs about unimportant things. I am also a musician, and I believe you all should do better."

Burna Boy Sets New Spotify Record For African Artists

Nigerian singer Burna Boy, whose real name is Damini Ogulu, has set a new record as the African artist with the highest number of monthly listeners in Spotify history.

The award-winning musician reached 46.84 million monthly listeners, breaking the previous record of 46.58 million, which was held by South African singer Tyla.

Burna Boy has now increased his monthly listeners to 47.3 million and is on track to become the first African artist to reach 50 million monthly listeners on Spotify.

Much of this growth has been driven by his World Cup song with Shakira, titled "Dai Dai."

The song recently reached No. 1 on Spotify's Global Top Songs chart, making Burna Boy the first African artist to top the chart since Wizkid achieved the feat in 2016 with Drake on the hit song "One Dance."

Leo DaSilva Advises People To Make Video Wills Amid Alex Ekubo's Family Dispute

Former Big Brother Naija star Leo DaSilva has advised people to make video wills following the ongoing family dispute after the death of actor Alex Ekubo.

The controversy grew after Alex's elder sister was accused of

asking a blogger to publish stories against his stepmother, whom Alex had publicly accepted as his mother.

Reacting to the situation, many Nigerians questioned why Alex's biological mother, who reportedly left him when he was seven years

old, only became involved after his death. Others believe the disagreement is mainly about sharing his property.

Commenting on the issue, Leo DaSilva said video wills can help prevent family disputes. He encouraged people to clearly state,

on video, how they want their property shared after their death.

He wrote: "I wish people understood that blood relatives don't always have your best interests at heart. They can even be your enemies or not be part of your life.

"That's why I always recommend video wills. Record a video explaining exactly how you want your property shared after your death, so people don't mistake your enemies for your family just because you are related by blood."

Joseph Jacob

 Joseph JACOB1914
 070361698671


Creative Writers Hangout

Dear Step-mother (7)

The sound that woke Uche the next morning was not an alarm clock, but, the wind. It howled softly against the glass window like an invisible force moving across the Scottish fields outside.

When he pulled the curtains apart, dawn had barely broken. The training grounds stretched beneath a pale silver sky, soaked from overnight rain. Floodlights still glowed faintly over the pitches while cold mist hovered low above the grass.

For a moment, Uche simply stood there.

Back home in Nigeria, mornings carried warmth, noise, and movement – shouting traders, blaring buses, the smell of frying akara drifting through streets already alive before sunrise. Here, everything felt quieter, controlled and almost solemn.

He dressed quickly in the academy's dark green training gear layered beneath a thermal top. Even indoors, the cold lingered stubbornly in the air.

By six-thirty, players were already gathering inside the performance hall.

The room looked like something from a futuristic sports documentary. Black rubber floors stretched beneath enormous ceiling lights. Rows of equipment filled the space – squat racks, resistance machines, medicine balls, sleds, battle ropes, stationary bikes, and giant digital screens displaying workout data in real time.

Music pulsed softly from hidden speakers.

The smell of deep heat cream, sweat, and fresh rubber hung in the air.

At the center stood the conditioning coach.

Hamish Kerr was impossible to ignore. The man looked carved from stone – tall, bald, thick-necked, with massive forearms folded across his chest. A trimmed beard framed his square jaw, and his sharp grey eyes carried the intensity of someone who accepted no excuses. Even his silence felt commanding.

"Morning, lads," he barked in a heavy Scottish accent. "Today we test your legs, lungs, and mentality. If you came here soft, this place will expose you." Nobody laughed.

The session began immediately.

Warm-up drills turned into explosive movement exercises. Players sprinted between cones, performed rapid ladder footwork, and jumped over hurdles while Hamish paced around like a military commander.

"Higher knees!"

"Faster recovery!"

"Explode off the ground!"

Uche's breath steamed visibly in the cold indoor air as sweat began forming beneath his layers. His muscles still carried soreness from

yesterday's medical testing, but he forced himself to match the others.

Then came the strength circuit, weighted sled pushes, deadlifts, single-leg squats and Core stabilization holds.

Each station was timed with ruthless precision.

The sound inside the hall became a mixture of heavy breathing, clanging metal, squeaking trainers, and Hamish's relentless voice cutting through everything.

"Football isn't talent alone!" he shouted. "Your body must survive ninety minutes under pressure!"

Uche pushed a weighted sled across the rubber flooring until his thighs burned like fire. Veins rose visibly along his neck while sweat dripped from his forehead onto the ground. Another goalkeeper collapsed briefly onto one knee after a sprint drill, only to be ordered immediately back up.

No sympathy, no slowing down. Yet Uche noticed something important: nobody complained.

Every player fought through the pain because everyone understood what this place represented: opportunity, dreams, escape from poverty and glory.

Uche remembered a quote Sandra once told him by Mohamed Ali, a former heavyweight boxing champion, "Suffer today and be a champion for the rest of your life." He encouraged himself and push himself beyond his limit.

After nearly two brutal hours, the session moved outdoors.

The cold hit instantly.

Rain had stopped, but the grass glistened beneath low clouds. The training pitches looked impossibly green, perfectly trimmed like carpets stretching endlessly beneath towering floodlights.

Uche inhaled sharply as the icy wind touched his sweat-soaked skin.

Goalkeepers were separated from the outfield players and led toward a smaller pitch near the far side of the facility. That was where Uche first met the goalkeeper coach, Douglas Fraser. The man looked older than most coaches Uche had seen – perhaps early sixties – but there was strength hidden beneath his lean frame. His silver hair was combed neatly backward, and his weatherproof black tracksuit carried years of mud stains and faded academy badges. His face was narrow and stern, with piercing eyes that seemed capable of reading fear instantly.

But his hands drew Uche's attention most. Large hands. Scarred hands. Goalkeeper's hands.

"You're the Nigerian boy," Douglas said without smiling.

"Yes, sir."

Douglas studied him silently

for several seconds before nodding toward the goalpost.

"Let's see your relationship with the ball."

The afternoon goalkeeper session began gently but intensely technical.

First came footwork.

Small cones were arranged in zigzag patterns across wet grass. Uche shuffled rapidly between them while Douglas observed every movement carefully.

"Goalkeeping starts from the feet," the old coach snapped. "Slow feet make dead goalkeepers."

The wet turf made movement difficult. Water splashed around Uche's boots as he changed direction repeatedly.

"Stay balanced!"

"Short steps!"

"Never cross your legs!"

Then came handling drills.

Douglas fired footballs toward him from short distances using both hands and a compact kicking device that launched shots unpredictably. Some balls dipped sharply because of the wet conditions, while others skidded violently off the grass.

Uche quickly realized Scottish weather created entirely different challenges.

The ball moved faster.

The surfaces were slicker.

The cold stiffened his fingers.

One low shot slipped awkwardly through his gloves. Douglas immediately blew his whistle.

"Again!"

Another shot, another save. Again. Again. Again.

Soon Uche's gloves were soaked, his knees muddy, and his breathing heavy. Yet something inside him came alive with every dive.

This was his territory. His position. His craft. This was what he was meant to do. He felt fired up when he remembered that when the going got tough at Willington Junior High School, it was football that brought him to school. He whispered to himself, "This is the football, play it."

Douglas increased the intensity.

Now crosses rained into the penalty area from wide angles. Uche had to sprint off his line, leap through bodies, and claim the ball midair while academy strikers challenged him physically.

"Command your box!" Douglas roared. "The goalkeeper owns the sky!"

One collision sent Uche crashing hard onto the wet ground after punching away a dangerous cross. Mud splattered across his face and chest.

He scrambled back up instantly.

Douglas noticed. A faint approval crossed the old man's face.

Later came reaction training.

Bright colored lights attached near the goal flashed randomly while assistants struck balls rapidly toward different corners. Uche's body moved almost instinctively – diving left, springing right, stretching fingertips toward shots that seemed impossible.

The sound of gloves striking footballs echoed sharply through the cold afternoon air.

At one point, Douglas stopped the session completely.

"All of you," he said to the other keepers, "watch him."

Uche straightened slightly.

Douglas pointed toward him.

"Raw technique. But strong reflexes. Fearless on low saves."

The compliment lasted barely seconds before the coach barked again.

"But he's too emotional in movement. Calmness matters. A goalkeeper must think in chaos."

Training continued until daylight faded entirely.

By evening, floodlights illuminated the pitch in brilliant white while freezing wind swept across the facility. Uche's body ached everywhere – shoulders, thighs, wrists, lower back – yet he felt strangely satisfied.

Exhausted. But alive.

As players finally walked back toward the main building, Douglas called out behind him. "Uche."

He turned. The old goalkeeper coach stood with both hands tucked into his jacket pockets.

"You've got potential," Douglas said quietly. "But potential means nothing here. Work decides everything."

Then the old man walked away into the cold Scottish evening, leaving Uche standing beside the glowing pitch with rain beginning to fall once again.

That night, exhaustion clung to Uche's body like wet clothing. Every muscle hurt.

His shoulders ached from repeated dives. His thighs felt heavy from the morning conditioning drills. Even his fingers were sore from punching away crosses in the freezing Scottish rain. Yet despite the physical fatigue, sleep refused to come.

The room was dim except for the small bedside lamp casting a warm amber glow across the walls. Outside the large window, rain slid slowly down the glass while distant floodlights illuminated the empty training pitches like silent watchtowers in the dark.

Uche sat at the edge of his bed, staring absently at the floor. His thoughts drifted home again. To Nigeria, to his mother, and inevitably to Sandra.

He had not heard her voice since the day he leaped through her window.

Will Uche call Amadi as he promised to Sandra? Find out in our next publication.

AUTHOR of the WEEK Grace Ogot

Grace Ogot Was a pioneering Kenyan novelist, short story writer, nurse, journalist, diplomat, and politician. Born on 15 May 1930 in Asembo, near Kisumu in western Kenya, she became one of the first East African women to gain international recognition for writing in English. Her works skillfully combined traditional Luo oral storytelling with modern themes, making her a trailblazer in African literature.

Grace Ogot received her early education in Kenya before training as a nurse in Uganda and later in England. After completing her studies, she returned to Kenya and worked in hospitals, where she developed a deeper understanding of people's struggles. She also worked as a broadcaster and journalist, using the media to educate and inform the public.

Her literary career began in the early 1960s, and she quickly established herself as a gifted storyteller. Her best-known works include the novel and the short story collection. Through her writing, she explored themes such as tradition, family, women's roles, cultural identity, and the challenges brought about by colonialism and modernization.

Grace Ogot's stories drew heavily from Luo folklore, beliefs, and customs while addressing universal human experiences.



She portrayed strong female characters and highlighted the tensions between African traditions and changing social values. Her unique storytelling style earned her respect across Africa and beyond.

Beyond literature, Grace Ogot played an active role in public service. She served as a member of the Kenyan Parliament after being nominated in 1983 and later represented Kenya in various diplomatic and international cultural roles. She was also involved in organizations that promoted education, women's empowerment, and the development of African literature.

Throughout her life, Grace Ogot received widespread recognition for her contributions to literature and national development. She inspired generations of African writers, especially women, by proving that African stories rooted in local cultures could achieve global appreciation. Her works remain widely studied in schools and universities around the world.

Grace Ogot passed away on 18 March 2015 at the age of 84, leaving behind a remarkable literary and public service legacy. She is remembered as one of Kenya's greatest literary icons, whose writings preserved African traditions while encouraging social progress and cultural pride. Her influence continues to shape African literature and inspire readers across the globe.

Sporting Ambassador



2026/2027 NPFL Season: Matters Arising

By Joseph Jacob

The Nigeria Premier Football League, NPFL, has officially unveiled its calendar of activities for the 2026/2027 football season, setting the stage for another campaign in Nigeria's top-flight competition. According to the timetable released by the league body, the new season will kick off between August 28 and 30, 2026, while the final round of matches is scheduled for May 30, 2027. The release of the calendar provides clubs, officials and stakeholders with an early framework for preparations and signals the league's determination to build on recent efforts to create a more predictable and professionally managed football environment.

In unveiling the schedule, league organisers explained that the objective is to ensure proper planning, improved coordination and a smoother football season from start to finish. The calendar does not only fix the dates for league matches; it also lays out a detailed roadmap covering pre-season administrative activities, club licensing processes, player registration deadlines, transfer windows, domestic cup engagements and post-season planning. By announcing the timeline well ahead of the new campaign, the NPFL hopes to give clubs enough time to meet regulatory, financial and operational obligations before a ball is kicked.

Preparations for the 2026/2027 campaign have begun in June with a wide range of compliance and administrative exercises involving all participating clubs. These early activities would form the backbone of the pre-season programme and are designed to ensure that every club entering the competition satisfies the standards expected of a top-flight side. Among the major requirements are club licensing procedures, verification of financial commitments, inspection of stadiums and training facilities, as well as broader compliance checks on infrastructure, administration and safety measures.

A major part of the licensing process will focus on the financial health and responsibility of clubs. Teams are expected to clear outstanding salaries and other obligations owed to players, coaches and football personnel before they can receive final approval to compete in the new season. This requirement is seen as one of the league's most important measures in its push to improve professionalism within domestic football. In recent years, unpaid wages and unresolved contractual disputes have remained a major concern in the Nigerian game, and league officials believe stricter enforcement of licensing conditions will help reduce those recurring

problems.

In addition to financial compliance, attention will also be placed on the state of match venues and club facilities. Inspections are expected to determine whether stadiums meet the standards required to host NPFL matches, including issues relating to playing surfaces, dressing rooms, media facilities, crowd control arrangements and general safety conditions. The league sees these inspections as a necessary step toward improving the quality of the matchday experience for players, officials, supporters and broadcasters alike. By insisting on minimum operational standards before the season begins, the NPFL is seeking to limit disruptions and

planning, travel arrangements and tactical preparation. For newly promoted teams in particular, it also offers the first clear picture of the challenge ahead as they prepare to compete against more established sides in the division.

As part of the traditional pre-season build-up, the NPFL has also pencilled in the Super 4/6 tournament to be staged in Lagos. The tournament is expected to feature some of the best-performing clubs from the previous campaign and will serve as a competitive tune-up ahead of the new league season. Beyond the trophy at stake, the event offers participating teams the chance to test their squads, sharpen tactical systems and build momentum before the real business

of their teams. Since the window will remain open even after the season begins, clubs will have room to make adjustments during the early weeks of the campaign if needed. A second transfer window has been scheduled for the month of January 2027, allowing teams another chance to reinforce their squads for the second half of the season. These transfer periods are expected to be crucial as clubs jostle for league honours, continental qualification spots and survival in the division.

The 2026/2027 NPFL season itself will be contested over 38 matchdays, stretching from late August 2026 to May 30, 2027. The first half of the campaign will end after Matchday 19 in December,

Federation Cup into the broader league calendar reflects a deliberate effort to avoid the fixture congestion and uncertainty that have often affected domestic competitions in the past.

Beyond the immediate concerns of the coming season, the NPFL's latest release also reveals a broader long-term scheduling strategy aimed at stabilising the structure of Nigerian domestic football. It disclosed that the 2027/2028 season is tentatively expected to begin between August 27 and 29, 2027. By mapping out multiple seasons in advance, the league appears determined to maintain a consistent annual rhythm that will benefit clubs, players, administrators, sponsors and broadcasters.

The calendar also pays attention to clubs making their way into the top flight for the first time or returning after promotion. Orientation programmes have been included for newly promoted teams to help them understand the league's operational procedures, licensing conditions and competition regulations. This initiative is expected to ease the transition into the NPFL and reduce administrative mistakes that could affect clubs during the season. It also underlines the league's growing focus on education, structure and institutional development as part of its reform agenda.

In a related development, the National Sports Commission, (NSC) announced that the champions of the NPFL will earn a minimum of one billion naira which is a fivefold jump from the previous two hundred million naira. The second placed team will earn five hundred million naira while the third placed team will receive three hundred million naira.

There is also a consideration of raising the minimum wage of players playing their trade in the NPFL to two million naira per month.

Ultimately, the early release of the 2026/2027 calendar is being presented as more than just a list of dates. It is a statement of intent from the NPFL, one that reflects a commitment to planning, accountability and greater professionalism in the administration of the domestic game. League organisers believe that by giving clubs and stakeholders enough notice, they can foster better preparation, improve compliance, reduce avoidable disputes and create a more competitive and stable championship. If implemented successfully, the calendar could mark another important step in the ongoing effort to strengthen the Nigeria Premier Football League and position it as a more organised, credible and attractive competition on the African football landscape.



Enyimba International of Aba lifting the trophy in 2023

ensure a more orderly competition.

Before the opening round of league fixtures, the NPFL will also hold its Annual General Meeting, one of the most important gatherings on the domestic football calendar. The AGM will bring together club representatives, league managers and other stakeholders to review the previous season and map out the direction for the new campaign. It is expected to serve as a platform for discussions on competition rules, operational issues and possible amendments to existing regulations. Such deliberations are vital to ensuring that clubs are fully aligned with league expectations and that any grey areas from the previous season are addressed before the new one gets underway.

Another key event in the build-up to the season will be the drawing of fixtures for the 2026/2027 campaign. Once completed, the draw will determine the opening weekend matches and the full sequence of fixtures for all 38 rounds of the league season. The release of fixtures is always a major moment for clubs and supporters because it shapes early-season

of the season begins. It also provides supporters with an early glimpse of how clubs are shaping up after the off-season.

Player registration and licensing have been allotted a significant part of the pre-season calendar, with July and August reserved for clubs to complete the documentation of their squads. The NPFL has fixed August 22 as the deadline for the registration of all eligible players, meaning clubs must finalise their squads before the opening weekend. This deadline is particularly important because only duly registered players will be available for selection once the season starts. The league is expected to enforce this process strictly in order to avoid disputes over player eligibility and ensure transparency in squad management.

The transfer market will also play a central role in preparations for the new campaign. According to the calendar, the first transfer window will open on July 15 and run until September 14, giving clubs the opportunity to recruit fresh talent, replace departed players and strengthen weak areas

after which clubs will observe a short mid-season break from December 23 to January 6. This recess is intended to give teams and players time to rest and reset during the festive period before the competition resumes in the new year. League action will restart in January, setting the stage for what is usually a demanding second half of the season when title races intensify, relegation battles deepen and pressure mounts across the table.

The NPFL calendar has also been carefully structured to accommodate the President Federation Cup, ensuring that domestic cup commitments can run alongside league matches without causing major scheduling clashes. State qualifying playoffs for the competition are scheduled to begin in early February 2027, after which the tournament will move into its national knockout rounds. From the Round of 64 to the Round of 32, the Round of 16, quarter-finals and semi-finals, the cup competition is expected to unfold across the latter part of the season, with the final billed for the closing stages of the football year. The integration of the

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World Cup Trophy: All You Need to Know

Stories by Joseph Jacob

The FIFA World Cup Trophy is the most coveted prize in world football and one of the most recognisable trophies in global sport. When the ongoing Mundial comes to an end on July 19 at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, the winning team will have the honour of lifting one of the

is in sporting history. Yet the trophy itself has a rich and fascinating story that stretches back nearly a century.

The trophy awarded to World Cup winners from 1930 to 1970 was originally called Victory, but in 1946 it was renamed the Jules Rimet Trophy in honour of the FIFA president who helped establish the tournament. Designed by French sculptor Abel Lafleur, it became one of football's most treasured icons. After winning the World Cup in 1958, 1962 and 1970, Brazil earned the right to keep the trophy permanently. However, the Jules Rimet Trophy was stolen in 1983 and has never been recovered.

The current FIFA World Cup Trophy was introduced in 1974. It is made of 18-carat gold, stands 36.8 centimetres tall and weighs 6.142 kilograms. Its base is decorated with two bands of semi-precious green malachite, while the underside features engraved plates bearing the names and years of every World Cup-winning nation since 1974. The trophy was designed by Italian artist Silvio Gazzaniga and depicts two human figures triumphantly holding up the Earth.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the trophy is how carefully it is handled. The authentic World Cup Trophy cannot be touched with bare hands by just anyone. Only heads of state, current FIFA presidents, and players and coaches who have won the tournament are permitted to handle the original trophy without gloves. Since 2006, the genuine gold trophy has only been presented to the winners on the pitch during the official trophy ceremony. Once those celebrations are over, FIFA reclaims it and returns it to its permanent home at the FIFA Museum in Zurich, Switzerland.

The winning nation does not keep the original trophy. Instead, the champions are presented with an exact gold-plated bronze replica known as the FIFA World Cup Winners' Trophy, which remains in the possession of the country's football federation.

So, who will lift football's greatest prize on July 19? Will it be one of the eight previous champions – Uruguay, Italy, Germany, Brazil, England, Argentina, France and Spain – adding another chapter to their legacy? Or will the world witness the crowning of a ninth FIFA World Cup champion? Before long, the answer will be written into football history.



FIFA World Cup: History Favours Brazil, Argentina

If history truly has a habit of repeating itself, then there is every reason to believe that either Brazil or Argentina could go all the way and win the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Let us begin with Brazil. The last time the Seleção won the World Cup was in 2002, when the tournament was jointly hosted by South Korea and Japan. This year's edition is also being staged across multiple nations, with Mexico, Canada and the United States serving as co-hosts. That coincidence alone is enough to excite Brazilian fans, who will be hoping history once again tilts in their favour.

There is another remarkable omen for Brazil. Vinicius Junior scored in each of Brazil's three group-stage matches at this tournament, becoming only the fifth Brazilian player to achieve that feat at a World Cup. What makes it even more significant is that on every previous occasion a Brazilian player scored in all three group matches, Brazil went on to win the tournament.

The trend began in 1970, when Jairzinho scored in all three of Brazil's group matches. That year, Brazil lifted the trophy after defeating Italy 4-1 in the final at the Estadio Azteca in Mexico. In 1994, Romário scored in all three group games as Brazil went on to beat Italy on penalties at the Rose Bowl in California,

USA, to claim a fourth title. Then in 2002, both Ronaldo and Rivaldo found the net in all three group-stage matches as Brazil won their fifth World Cup, defeating Germany 2-0 in the final in Yokohama, Japan. With Vinicius Junior now joining that exclusive list, Brazilian supporters will be daring to dream once more.

Argentina, however, also have history on their side. There is an interesting pattern linking Argentina's triumphs to Brazil's successes on the same soil. After Brazil won the 1970 World Cup in Mexico, Argentina captured the next World Cup played in Mexico, defeating West Germany 3-2 in the famous 1986 final inspired by Diego Maradona. Similarly, when Brazil won the first World Cup staged in Asia in 2002, Argentina conquered the world the next time the tournament returned to Asia, lifting the trophy in Qatar in 2022.

That pattern now raises another fascinating question. The last World Cup final played in the United States was in 1994, and Brazil emerged champions. Now that the final is returning to American soil in 2026, could Argentina be the team to follow that sequence and lift the trophy this time? It is an intriguing possibility and one that adds another layer of excitement to what is already shaping up to be a memorable tournament.

With history offering encouraging signs to both South American giants, the 2026 FIFA World Cup may yet end in triumph for either Brazil or Argentina. For now, football fans around the world can only wait, watch and see how the drama unfolds.



Lionel Messi

SUDOKU

Puzzle By: Prince Blessing Lazarus

most prestigious symbol

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				5				1
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All you have to do is fill the grid in such away that every 3X3 box and row and column, contains the numbers 1-9.