



Visible Intervention Initiatives
of ASOPADEC From **2023 – 2025**

NATIONAL Ambassador

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"Uplift the people, project the nation"

September 2026 Edition



ABIA @ 35: THE RISE OF A NEW ABIA



Thanksgiving Service

Highlights from the 35th Anniversary
Interdenominational Thanksgiving Service



HEALTH CARE | OBINGWA GENERAL HOSPITAL
Inside the Commissioning of The Newly Remodelled —
Chima Ubani General Hospital, Obingwa

ABIA Ideas Village Spotlights Young Innovators
@youth Innovation Day

The **Executive Leadership**
SERIES
THEME: Strengthening Ethical Leadership and Public Service Delivery

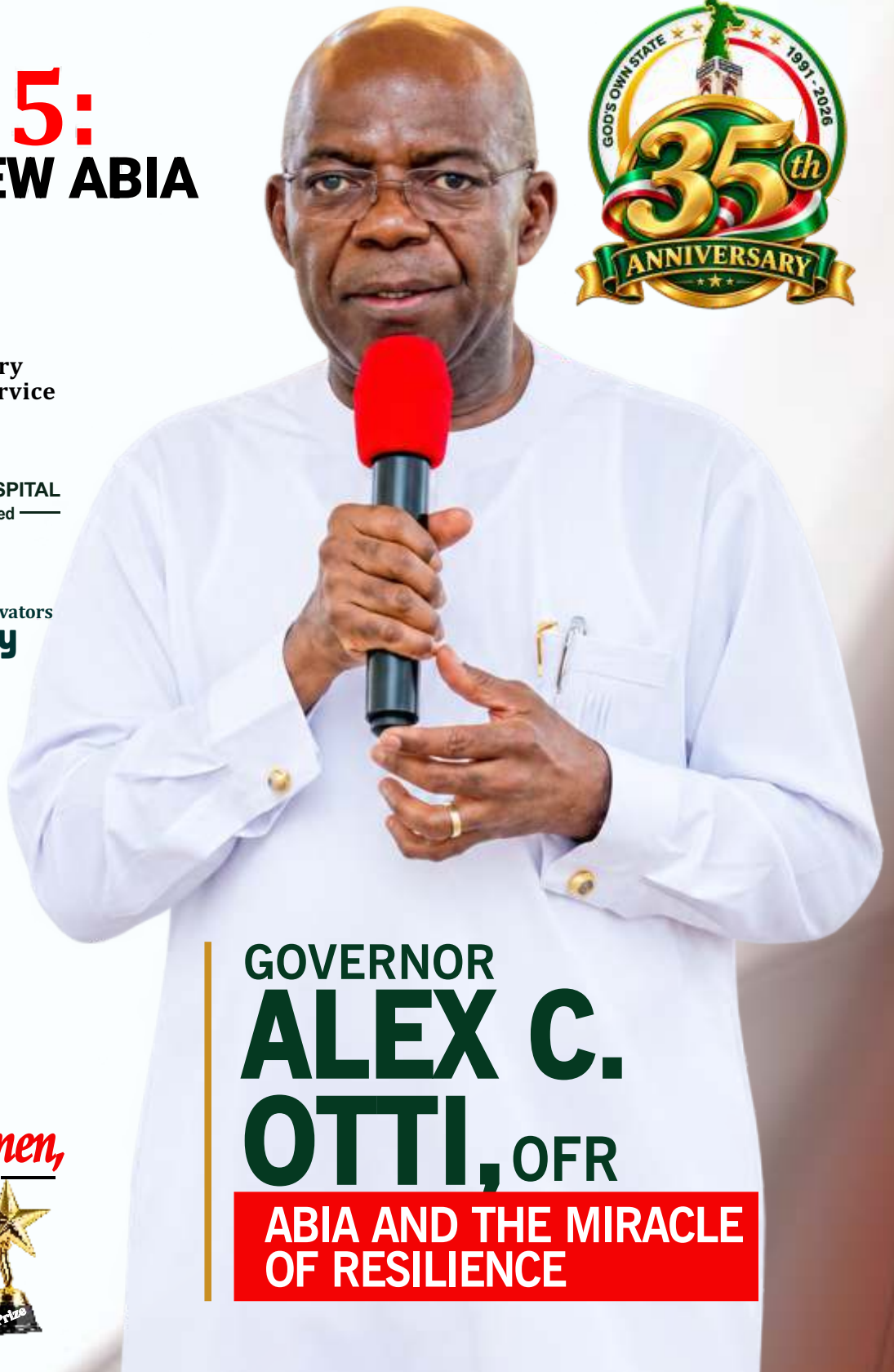
BUILDING LEADERS
FOR THE **NEW ABIA**

Highlights from the 2026 Abia State Leadership
Academy Youth Leadership Boot Camp Graduation

2026 | AWADEC:
Otti Hails Abia Women,
Says They Are Central To New Abia Agenda

CHIBUZOR ELIZABETH CHIJOKE
THE FUTURE AWARDS AFRICA INDEPENDENT

- For Public Service



GOVERNOR
**ALEX C.
OTTI, OFR**

**ABIA AND THE MIRACLE
OF RESILIENCE**



GOVERNING COUNCIL, ABIA STATE UNIVERSITY, UTURU (ABSU)

On behalf of Management, Staff and Students



Happy
35th
ANNIVERSARY

TO
ABIA STATE,
God's Own State!



HIS EXCELLENCY
DR. ALEX OTTI, OFR
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE

We, the members of the Governing Council, Abia State University, Uturu (ABSU), on behalf of Management, Staff and Students, warmly congratulate our Executive Governor and Visitor to the University, **His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR**, and the entire people of Abia State on this landmark celebration of **our State's 35th anniversary**.

Your Excellency, your visionary leadership is steering our beloved state toward **unprecedented growth, economic renewal, and structural transformation**.

At ABSU, we remain deeply inspired by your unwavering commitment to revitalising education and restoring the pride of our people. As a university, we pledge our total support to your administration's agenda to build a highly skilled, innovative, and prosperous Abia State.

May this 35th anniversary bring lasting peace, unity, and greater progress to every Abian.

Congratulations, Your Excellency!

Congratulations to the people of Abia State!

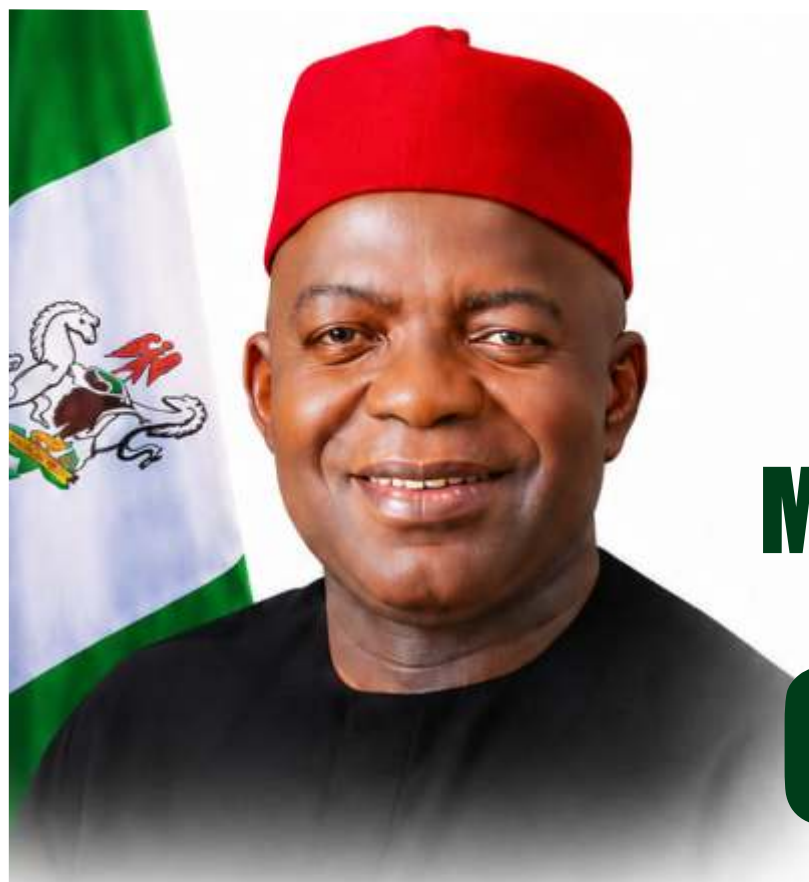


Signed

1. Rt. Hon. Agwu U Agwu PhD
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-Vice-Chancellor
3. Professor Gazie Okpara
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10. Rt. Rev. Nkechi Nwosu
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12. Monday Ubani (SAN)

13. Prof. David Chikezie
14. Prof. Levi Nwokocha
15. Prof. Kenneth Ngwaogu
16. Dr. Chidi Osuagwu
17. Chief Agwu U. Kalu
18. Dr. Acho Elendu
-Registrar/Secretary of Council



MACDONALD UBAH SALUTES GOV. OTTI, — CELEBRATES — ABIA @ 35

I heartily felicitate with the Governor of Abia State, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, and the good people of our dear state as we celebrate the **35th Anniversary** of the creation of Abia State on **Thursday, August 27, 2026**.

As we mark this historic milestone, I commend Governor Otti for his purposeful and visionary leadership, particularly his unwavering commitment to the security, peace, infrastructure and overall development of Abia State.

The remarkable transformation taking place across our state is a clear reflection of a renewed determination to build a safer, stronger and more prosperous Abia for all.

I urge all Abians to continue to support the present administration as it sustains the drive for peace, security, development and prosperity.

Congratulations, Abia State!

Happy 35th Anniversary!



ABIA @ 35:
CELEBRATING PROGRESS, PEACE AND PROSPERITY

Signed

Navy Commander MacDonald Ubah (Rtd)
Special Adviser to the Governor of
Abia State on Security Matters





ABIA STATE OIL PRODUCING AREAS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION **ASOPADEC**



HIS EXCELLENCY,
DR. ALEX OTTI, OFR
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF ABIA STATE



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

ABIA AT 35, HAPPY CELEBRATIONS TO GOV. OTTI AND THE PEOPLE

On behalf of my family, management and staff, I warmly felicitate with the Executive Governor of Abia State, Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, and the good people of Abia State on the occasion of the 35th Anniversary of the creation of our dear State.

This anniversary is a moment to celebrate our journey and acknowledge the laudable transformation taking place under your visionary leadership. Your administration has ushered in a remarkable paradigm shift from the old to a New Abia, characterised by massive infrastructural renewal, improved governance, accountability and a renewed sense of purpose.

Most significantly, your leadership has rekindled the people's confidence in government and demonstrated that purposeful leadership can transform society.

As Abia celebrates 35 years, we are confident that better things are yet to come. We pray for continued wisdom, strength and success as you build an even greater Abia.

*Happy 35th Anniversary,
Abia State!*



AN OVERVIEW OF THE CONCEPT OF THANKFULNESS

According to Webster's New Practical School Dictionary (1647:359), **THANKFULNESS** refers to a condition of being happy or grateful for something good that has happened. Thankfulness may also be viewed, seen or pictured as appreciation of something good that has been done by someone or a group of people.

THE REASONS FOR THANKFULNESS INCLUDE

The Holy Bible teaches us to be thankful.

First, the teaching concerning the healing of ten men with leprosy by Jesus Christ has taught us the importance of being thankful. After the healing of the ten leprosy men by Jesus Christ, only one of the healed men came back and thanked Jesus. Jesus Christ was pleased with the one who came back and thanked Him. Jesus asked the

healed man who came back to thank Him, "What about the other nine men?"

The question asked by Jesus Christ has shown the momentousness of thankfulness (Luke 17:11-19).

Second, the Israelites, including Moses, were thankful to God when He delivered them from the wicked plans

and activities of Pharaoh and his soldiers (Exodus 15:1-21).

Thankfulness motivates someone or a group of people to do more good things, while a lack of thankfulness may lead to a reduction in doing something good.

Thankfulness helps to establish and maintain cordial relationships.

Having clearly explained the importance of, or reasons for, thankfulness for something good that has happened, it is therefore pertinent at this very juncture to thank our Creative, Benevolent, Pragmatic, Visionary, and Dependable Governor, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, for his visible and laudable achievements in the Ministry of Trade and Commerce, which include the following:

- ★ Provision of modern equipment or tools for improved grading of products.
- ★ Provision of an office for organizing the business activities of Nigeria Agri-business and Agro-Industry.
- ★ Sponsorship of capacity-building programmes for our staff in order to increase productivity and promote good working relationships.
- ★ Promotion of export business through the establishment of a modern export laboratory at Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic, Aba.

- ★ Provision of business support and empowerment programmes for widow traders and single-mother entrepreneurs.
- ★ Facilitation of industrial partnerships between the private sector and the public sector.
- ★ Introduction of a digital payment system for produce revenue collection.
- ★ Sponsorship of the 2nd Aba International Trade Fair.
- ★ Promotion of investment activities and

- ★ provision of a conducive business environment.
- ★ Provision of both human and material resources to ensure the effective functioning of Star Paper Mill.
- ★ Remodelling of Ariaria International Market, Aba.
- ★ Reconstruction and completion of 988 shops at Ekeoha Shopping Centre, Phase I.
- ★ Provision of loans for traders and investors.

It is also momentous to thank our Dear Governor, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, for his numerous, visible and laudable achievements in other sectors or ministries, which include the following:

- ★ *Provision of security for lives and property in Abia State. It is on record that Abia State is one of the peaceful states in Nigeria.*
- ★ *Provision of qualitative education. Our Amiable Governor has provided qualitative education because he knows very well that the best legacy a true leader can give his people is qualitative education. As you all know, education is a process of acquiring knowledge and skills that make us useful to ourselves and the entire society. Education in our state provides Abia youths with functional modern education that makes them self-employed as well as employable at any level of industrial need. In order to achieve this laudable goal, Your Excellency has constantly upgraded our primary and secondary schools with modern infrastructure. In addition, our primary and secondary education is now compulsory and free. Abia State College of Education (Technical), Arochukuwu, and the School of Health, Aba, have also been upgraded with modern facilities to create room for the acquisition of modern education.*
- ★ *Construction and maintenance of roads in Abia State. Road construction and maintenance focus on the provision of good roads to interconnect the rural and urban centres for the easy movement of people and commodities. Economic development or advancement can never take place in the absence of good roads.*
- ★ *Even spread of political appointments among the three senatorial zones in Abia State, namely Abia North, Abia Central, and Abia South.*
- ★ *Provision of improved health services. At present, hospitals are equipped with modern medical facilities as well as human resources.*
- ★ *Maintenance of peace and unity among the three organs of government, namely the Executive, the Legislature, and the Judiciary. The high level of cordial relationship among the three organs of government has largely contributed to the realization of most of the State Developmental Goals (SDGs).*
- ★ *Provision of an improved agricultural sector. The agricultural sector has improved through the provision of improved seedlings, fertilizers, agricultural equipment, soft loans, grants, and agricultural training.*
- ★ *Eradication of godfatherism in Abia politics. At present, appointments and the selection of leaders through elections are based on merit, integrity, intelligence, humility, competence, and skills.*
- ★ *Identification and improvement of the special talents of people. Our Dear Governor has been able to achieve this through the*
- ★ *establishment of skill acquisition centres, where people whose skills have been identified are sent for proper training as well as development.*
- ★ *Motivating people to worship God through the promotion of the gospel in various churches and public places. He knows fully well that worshipping God involves the fear of God, and the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, while wisdom metamorphoses into individual and societal development.*
- ★ *Recovery of government land from greedy and selfish people.*
- ★ *Beautification of urban areas.*
- ★ *Reconciling and making peace with political opponents.*
- ★ *Encouraging young politicians to grow politically and economically.*
- ★ *Construction of Abia Airport at Nsulu.*
- ★ *Building and maintenance of court halls in Aba, Umuahia, etc.*
- ★ *Funding of digital training for more than one thousand youths. It is hoped that, after the training, the trained youths will be well able to employ themselves and others.*
- ★ *Provision of job opportunities for people from Abia State and those who are not from Abia State. Recently, thousands of primary and secondary school teachers have been employed.*
- ★ *Permission has been given by His Excellency to employ an additional four thousand primary and secondary school teachers. Permission has also been given by His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, to employ lecturers at Abia State University, Uturu, and Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic, Aba.*
- ★ *Listening to and caring for the less privileged, widows, orphans, and the poor. Your Excellency listens to and cares for the poor and less privileged by paying hospital bills for them, and our Dear Governor also includes the poor, the less privileged, and orphans in scholarship programmes.*
- ★ *Improvement of the economic level of Abia State. He has been able to move our State economy forward through the effective utilization of both human and material resources. He utilizes both human and material resources effectively by revitalizing the manufacturing sector, reviving the agricultural sector, and improving power supply.*

★ *Payment of Abia workers and pensioners at the end of every month.*

★ *Inclusion of Permanent Secretaries and other Government Appointees as Members of the Executive Council.*

★ *Provision of vehicles for Permanent Secretaries and other Government Appointees.*

★ *Rebuilding and furnishing of Government House.*

★ *Rebuilding and furnishing of the Abia State Secretariat.*



■ Remodelled Ariaria International Market



■ Remodelled Ariaria International Market



Chief Cyril Chibuike Nwaigwe, Ph.D.
Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Trade and
Commerce
Abia State, Nigeria.

IN CONCLUSION, we demonstrate our thankfulness or appreciation for the numerous, visible and laudable achievements of our Creative, Visionary, Benevolent, Pragmatic, and Dependable Governor by praying to Almighty God to bless him with long life and good health so as to enjoy the fruit of his labour. We also pray to God to fulfil all His promises to our Dear Governor as contained in Psalm 91:14-16, John 14:13-14, and Matthew 7:7. Amen.

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From The

Editorial Suite

with Jones Nnanna Ike



ABIA AT 35

AND THE RISE OF THE NEW ABIA

Abia State clocked 35 years on August 27, 2026. The State was created on August 27, 1991.

In its 35-year journey, Abia has had a chequered history—one marked by hopes raised, dashed and, in some instances, reclaimed. Yet, as the State marked its 35th anniversary, that history gave way to a renewed sense of optimism, with the State enveloped in a week-long celebration of its journey, achievements and aspirations for the future.

The anniversary celebration commenced with an Interdenominational Thanksgiving Service held at the Trade More Event Centre, Umuahia.

The Thanksgiving Service was followed on Monday, August 24, 2026, by an expanded Executive Council Meeting, which had in attendance as Guest Speaker, Mr. Liyel Imoke, former Executive Governor of Cross River State.

Mr. Imoke, who was unarguably one of the most brilliant minds in the Olusegun Obasanjo administration, enriched the expanded Executive Council Meeting



with his wealth of experience in governance and public policy.

On Tuesday, August 25, 2026, the State commissioned the fully rebuilt, retrofitted and digitalised Obingwa General Hospital, which was renamed after the late social activist, Comrade Chima Ubani.

On Wednesday, August 26, the focus shifted to young people with the Ideas Village, which held at the Manu-Tech Hub of the Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike.

At the event, the Abia Youth Technology Build Programme brought together emerging start-ups to showcase locally developed solutions.

The Ideas Technology Village created opportunities for founders to explain their ideas directly to potential users, partners and investors. It also enabled participants to receive feedback, build relationships and gain the visibility that many early-stage businesses require to move from promising concepts to





■ Chief Osita Chidoka - The Keynote Speaker

sustainable ventures.

The event reinforced the vision of the Governor Otti-led administration to make technological innovation and youth enterprise important drivers of Abia's economic transformation.

Also on Wednesday, August 26, was the Executive Leadership Series, which had in attendance the Executive Governor of Abia State, His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, and other distinguished members of the Abia State Executive Council.

The former Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Chief Osita Chidoka, was the keynote speaker. The event was held at the Michael Okpara Auditorium.

The lecture, delivered in an eloquent and practical manner by Chief Chidoka, provided an important intellectual framework for understanding the enormous responsibility placed on political appointees and career civil servants.

Chidoka's message was straightforward and simple: a government's vision is meaningless if it lacks the human capacity to execute that vision.

His exposition also brought into sharp focus one of the most important questions confronting the future of the State: how to build systems of government that will outlive individuals, political administrations and personal interests.

The answer to that question

undoubtedly aligns with the current vision and practice of the Dr. Otti-led administration: building strong institutions and developing capable people, enthroning a culture of merit in the running of government, demanding ethical conduct and ensuring that government decisions are translated into measurable improvements in the lives of the people.

The Executive Leadership Series, enriched by the experience and insight of Chief Osita Chidoka, served as a timely reminder that the greatest infrastructure of any government is not only its roads, bridges, schools or hospitals, but also its people.

The most fundamental lesson of the epoch-making event was the understanding that if Abia succeeds in building capable, ethical and professionally driven leaders across its institutions, the progress being recorded presently can become self-sustaining.

THE ANNIVERSARY DAY

Then came the D-Day, marked by Governor Otti's radio broadcast in the morning and an Anniversary Lecture later in the day.

On Thursday, August 27, 2026, events opened with a radio broadcast at 7:00 a.m., during which the Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, addressed the people of the State.

Later that same day, a Public Lecture was held at the International Conference Centre (ICC), with Chief Osita Chidoka as the Guest Speaker.





ABIA AT 35 AND THE RISE OF THE NEW ABIA

contd. from Page 4



In his speech at the grand finale and during the public lecture, Governor Otti called for people-centred governance, charging leaders to regard the development of the State as a collective responsibility rather than a platform for personal recognition.

Reflecting on the State's journey over the past 35 years, Governor Otti asserted that the modest contributions of successive administrations should be viewed as efforts made in the service of the people rather than as personal achievements.

He therefore said the anniversary should provide an opportunity for deep introspection, particularly on the progress made by the State. He stressed that it was the responsibility of current and future leaders to sustain and improve upon that progress.

A major highlight of the anniversary lecture was the goodwill message delivered by the Director-General of the

World Trade Organization, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

She commended the Abia State Government for its efforts to diversify revenue, improve financial sustainability and prioritise capital investment, noting that the State devoted 77 per cent of its spending to capital projects.

She praised the Otti-led administration for upgrading infrastructure, rehabilitating neglected transport corridors, improving electricity supply, clearing inherited salary and pension arrears, and reducing the State's debt stock.

She, however, pointed to challenges that still need to be overcome. These included unlocking Aba's enormous economic potential, achieving deeper integration with other regions, developing Aba-made products into global brands, and strengthening Umuahia as a centre for light manufacturing and administration.

In his own speech, the keynote speaker, Chief Osita Chidoka, asserted that his assessment of the Otti administration was that "Something material has happened," pointing to improvements in roads, urban renewal, transport, education, health and other areas of public infrastructure.

However, he stressed that the more important test was whether these visible improvements could be translated into durable institutions capable of sustaining progress beyond the tenure of the Governor.

Chidoka pointed out that the fundamental lesson for Abia State was the need to move away from leadership driven by the energy and standards of an individual towards institutions with the capacity to function independently.

He referenced Governor Otti's 2014 book,

Saving the Future: The Economic Development and Prosperity Agenda, as an example of a leader who had prepared himself for leadership.

He said Abia's ambition should be to make competent government, adequately funded schools, clean cities, passable roads, timely payment of salaries and effective public institutions ordinary features of life in the State.

He also challenged Abia to reclaim its historical position of punching above its weight in Nigeria, arguing that its future influence should be based not only on the prominence of its political personalities, but also on the quality of its institutions, education, enterprise and governance.

BEYOND THE CELEBRATION

The week-long 35th anniversary celebration may have come and gone, but the fundamental lessons from it—and the conversations it generated must not be lost.

The conversation gradually shifted from celebrating where Abia has been to deliberately defining where Abia is going.

At the heart of that conversation is the vision being championed by Governor Alex Otti: an Abia where institutions work, opportunities are earned, public officers understand their responsibilities, and government possesses the capacity to translate promises into results.

That vision was a cardinal part of the conversation throughout the anniversary activities.

And perhaps, more importantly, it presents a defining question for the next chapter of Abia's story: Can the progress being recorded today become a system that survives the people who built it?

At 35, Abia is not merely looking back at its past. It is being challenged to build a future in which progress becomes institutional, opportunities become sustainable, and good governance becomes an enduring feature of life in the State.

That may ultimately be the real meaning of the rise of the New Abia.



ABIA AND THE MIRACLE OF RESILIENCE



Being the Text of a Broadcast by
Governor Alex C. Otti, OFR,
on Thursday, August 27, 2026 to Mark the
35th Anniversary of the Creation of Abia State



1 Umunnem Ndi Abia, I come to you this morning with an elation of gratitude, thankful, firstly to the Almighty God for His blessings upon our land in the last 35 years. May I also congratulate you, dear brothers and sisters, as we relish the joy of this remarkable anniversary in our evolution as a people bound by a common heritage, defined by the resilience of our spirit and hope in the promises that tomorrow holds. Individually and collectively, every one of us has uniquely contributed to shaping the character of our State, drawing its identity and laying out the map of its future. Fellow Abians, you owe it to yourself to be proud of the contributions you have made in the building of this community of endless possibilities. Our joy on this momentous occasion does not come from a place of vanity, it is firmed on the conviction that a new epoch is upon us, our moment has arrived and with gratitude, we shall seize the opportunities of our day to create a better world for those coming after us. Our race is never about outrunning others, it is pushing ourselves harder each day, asking tough questions and refusing to settle for less than we deserve.

2 The radiance of our dear State draws from the light lit by the brilliance of foresight and the prodigious intellect of our father, Dr Ogbonnaya Onu, CON, who served as our first democratically-elected Governor; over the last 27 years, my predecessors, Dr. Okezie Ikpeazu, Chief Theodore Orji, CON, and Dr. Orji Uzor Kalu, MON, have exerted themselves in the service of our people, contributing to its socio-economic and political evolution. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their contribution to our development. On a day of immense historical significance like this, we are obliged to also remember the efforts and commitments of the military administrators whose steady leadership helped in the maintenance of peace and social stability in the early years. The

foundations laid by Air Vice Marshal Frank Ajobena, CON, Brigadier General Chinyere Ike Nwosu, Commander Temi Ejoor, Colonel Moses Fasanya and Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Obi offered great hopes about the immense potential that our young State held at the time. Their investments in infrastructure and commitment to public order greatly shaped the construct of our economic and social experiences as our identity began to emerge. Like all of us, our past leaders may not have been perfect, but we must never lose sight of their efforts at building a political entity that answers to the aspirations of all who share in its heritage.

3 Abia, it must be noted on this auspicious occasion, did not emerge from mere wishes; the State was created by the Military Administration of General Ibrahim Babangida, GCFR, following years of intense agitations and convergence of wits by a constellation of political, traditional and religious leaders, scholars, captains of industry and thought leaders from all walks of life. Coincidentally, IBB spoke with me yesterday and requested that I give his best wishes to Ndi Abia. The visionaries who led the agitation for the creation of our State were driven entirely by the conviction that we have been called to a great destiny that can only find expression in a distinct political entity within a defined geographical boundary. Leading the patriotic push for the creation of Abia were political giants and titans like Dr Michael Iheonukara Okpara who led the Abia State Movement from the early 1980s along with his deputy, Chief Benjamin Nwachukwu. Also worthy of due recognition are leaders like Dr. Moses A. O. Agbara, Pharmacist Rufus Obi, Barrister Vincent Uwanna, Dr Nwakama Okoro, Barrister Igwe Ugwumba, Honourable Chief Eme Udeoji, Eze Dr Feyi Waboso, Chief O. C. Ememe and Ezeji Joseph Madumere Nwamgburuka. Working closely with other prominent

leaders who shared in the dream of a new State for our people, our fathers offered their all that the state we know today as Abia may be actualised. As we mark the 35th anniversary of the realisation of what was once a dream, it is required that we restate our debt of gratitude to the pathfinders for envisioning the future and using everything at their disposal, including their prodigious intellect, financial resources and political reach, to make it happen. Our job in this age is to rededicate ourselves to the values that inspired leaders from the constituent communities to work in unity for the creation of the State.

4 The political and intellectual elites may have led the struggle for the creation of our State but its enduring identity has been carved over the last three decades and half, by the resilience of its entrepreneurs, artisans and all those whose ingenuity and innovative products and solutions dominate markets and trading posts across West Africa. The greatness of the State, beyond the bold footprints of its giants, is expressed in the outputs of the creative minds who operate in the fashion ecosystem, producing fabrics and leatherworks that define industry benchmarks in Nigeria and beyond; the architectural masterpieces that dot our landscape would not exist without the diligence of the bricklayers, plumbers, electricians, carpenters and the body of workers who have carried forth our philosophy of work and value creation through generations. Today also, we remember our teachers, past and present, the dedicated instructors who poured their lives into ours that the light of knowledge would continue to shine brighter into the future. The civil servants, medical experts, security agents, sanitation workers, traders and the countless body of professionals and self-employed individuals in our communities deserve generous words of commendation for shaping our daily

“Our joy on this momentous occasion does not come from a place of vanity, it is firmed on the conviction that a new epoch is upon us



**THE
NEW
ABIA**

experiences with their skills and commitment. Abia, like every society through time, embodies the energy and the optimism of the people who live in it; we do not give up, whatever the odds are, we fight, exhaust ourselves and return at dawn the next day until the outcome that we seek is attained. This anniversary morning presents us the special opportunity to celebrate the resilient spirit that has carried us through thick and thin; remembering specially the regular men and women who express their faith in the founding ideals of our State through the passion they bring to their daily endeavours. The whole credit for the achievements of the last 35 years belongs to all of us who refused to be held back by the cynicism that greeted our first steps as we set out on this journey; our children have a brighter future because you stayed courageous, especially when our path looked bleak, and the reward of our labour, uncertain.

5 While it is only decent that we congratulate ourselves for the blessings of the last 35 years, it is also prudent that we remind ourselves that we are only just beginning. The road ahead is still long and the only guarantee of success is focus — a constant reminder that we have barely scratched the surface, that our fathers had big dreams when they mapped the economic and social outline of the State more than 40 years ago. Yes, our road network is expanding, more public and private buildings are rising and the marvel of technology has enabled the democratisation of opportunities but there is more to ask for, much more work to be done. To become better, we need to be constantly mindful of the fact that we are still far from the destination that stirred the dream of Abia in the hearts of the early visionaries. We cannot afford the lethargy of complacency nor accept the limitations that mediocrity imposes on great aspirations. The Abia project found its wing through the foresight and doggedness of its founding visionaries; our generation has, not minding its acute limitations, continued the race and in time, the baton shall be passed over to our children. What we must now do is to make the community better for those coming after us. We are confronted by challenges on every side but the consensus has to be reached that we are never handing over a broken society to our children. As parents, we are duty-bound to prepare them to function and thrive in the new age where value creation, and not what is buried beneath the earth, is the ultimate ticket to sustained relevance.

6 To prepare our young ones for the demands of the future, we shall continue to expand our investments in the education and health sectors. Our generous investments over the last 3 years have

enabled the recruitment and training of thousands of teachers and health workers, enhanced salary packages, smooth execution of capital projects, especially the building and equipping of smart schools, primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare facilities, payment of counterpart funding for development projects, effective supervision and other initiatives that are designed to guarantee improved service delivery. Our overarching strategy is to create systems that enhance the overall competitiveness of every child raised in Abia. We have made a commitment that no child in Abia shall be disadvantaged on account of the economic or social background of their parents and this is expressed through our free and compulsory basic education programme, the efforts at increasing the quality of learning in the schools and the spread of our smart schools. Beyond the gains made in the restoration of our public primary, post primary and tertiary institutions as centres of learning and development, we have specially tied our health sector investments into the overall programme of development for our children because for us, you cannot separate the health and wellbeing of the parents from the growth trajectory of the child. This philosophy explains our substantial investments in the development of primary healthcare facilities in all the 184 wards in the State as a way of improving access to healthcare for families. We have specifically reinvigorated the health insurance programme to cut down the scale of difficulties arising from out-of-pocket spending when accessing healthcare services at our partner facilities.

7 May I reiterate that all the entire economic and social development programmes of the State are carefully structured to expand the field of opportunities for our hardworking population as our founding fathers envisioned. Over the last 3 years, more than a thousand kilometres of roads across urban and rural communities have been fixed to open up the economy, improve factor productivity and draw investments which ultimately would create job opportunities for our teeming youth population. We are also keen on the potential of the agricultural sector; beyond the promise of food security, we are practically ramping up investments in agriculture to create real jobs, expand the size of household income and attract foreign capital as we are recently beginning to witness. In the same vein, the State is steadily laying a solid groundwork to accelerate the development of the housing sector through the adoption of technology and transparency in the land administration process. Our focus in this regard is to increase public confidence and multiply the value of our real estate as a legitimate channel of wealth creation. The government in the last 3 years has demonstrated a definite resolve to mine

the opportunities that are developing in the information communication technology space through structured training programmes that have benefitted thousands of young men and women; recall also that we are investing in ICT infrastructure to increase access, especially for rural dwellers so they can as well benefit from the leverages offered by technology. Evidently, we are keeping our eyes on the promises of the future in continuing pursuit of the set of aspirations that informed the demand for the creation of Abia 35 years ago. Permit me once again to return credit to where it rightly belongs: to you, umunne m ndi Abia. Thank you for the sacrifices of the past 35 years; the credit for the success of the past and present belongs to you, thank you for not giving up on this land and for remaining unyielding in your conviction that the soul of this great State is worth fighting for.

8 While we have carefully kept our eyes on the future, efforts have also been made to address the injustice of the past; nothing demonstrates this better than the recent commencement of the payment of accumulated gratuity arrears, starting from 2001. We shall, as promised, continue to make these payments as resources become available. You can, however, take it for granted that henceforth, no senior citizen shall be denied what is due them. Beyond the decision to clear debts accumulated from more than 2 decades ago, I have also directed that going forward, anyone leaving the service should be paid their gratuity as soon as the necessary documentation is completed. The old practice of denying retirees what is due them will no longer obtain. This administration shall continue to honour our senior citizens for the crucial roles they played in the evolution of our State since 1991.

9 The future, as I had earlier hinted, is promising but we must rise to the demands that it makes of us. The responsibility of building a state worthy of the dreams of our parents is on all of us; today's anniversary invites us to embrace our duties as citizens and stakeholders in the long-term development of the State; pay your taxes and other statutory fees as often and quickly as they fall due, support the security agents to keep crime out of our State and refuse the temptation to be a tool in the shenanigans of unscrupulous elements. Abia is ours to build and thankfully, we are on the right track. As we march into the future with a new sense of mission; let us take confidence in the knowledge that our destiny is written by the very hands that carved the marvel of the universe.

10 Thank you for listening and may God bless Abia State



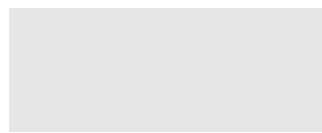
“Our moment has arrived and with gratitude, we shall seize the opportunities of our day to create a better world for those coming after us.

Foundational Pillars of The **NEW ABIA**











ABIA @ 35:

Thanksgiving Service

Highlights from the 35th Anniversary Interdenominational Thanksgiving Service



The Interdenominational Thanksgiving Service marking the 35th anniversary of the creation of Abia State, held at the Okpara Square Event Centre, Umuahia, brought together government officials, religious leaders, traditional rulers, political leaders, and citizens in a solemn celebration of gratitude, unity, and renewed hope.

The historic gathering featured the participation of His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, Governor of Abia State; former Cross River State Governor, Senator Liyel Imoke; the Catholic Archbishop of Owerri Archdiocese, Most Rev. Dr. Lucius Iwejuru Ugorji; and renowned gospel minister Buchi, alongside religious leaders from various denominations, traditional rulers, and distinguished guests from within and beyond Abia State.

Together, they joined in offering prayers and thanksgiving for Abia's journey over the past 35 years, while looking ahead with renewed faith and optimism toward the future.

These photographs capture memorable moments from the thanksgiving service, reflecting a collective spirit of faith, gratitude, unity, and hope, while reaffirming a shared commitment to the continued rise of the New Abia.

P I C T O R I A L S



Highlights from the 35th Anniversary Interdenominational Thanksgiving Service

ABIA @ 35: Thanksgiving Service



Highlights from the 35th Anniversary Interdenominational Thanksgiving Service

ABIA @ 35: Thanksgiving Service





HEALTH CARE | OBINGWA GENERAL HOSPITAL

Inside the Commissioning of The Newly Remodelled Chima Ubani General Hospital, Obingwa



The commissioning of the newly remodelled 80-bed Chima Ubani General Hospital at Mgboko on August 25, 2026, marked another milestone in Governor Dr. Alex Otti's healthcare transformation agenda for Abia State.

The historic event attracted an impressive gathering of distinguished personalities, including Senator Enyinnaya Abaribe, the Commissioner for Health, Prof. Enoch Ogbonnaya Uche, the Chief Executive Officer of the Abia State Hospitals Management Board, Dr. Odochi Azubuike, Labour Party State Chairman, Hon. Peter Azubuike, Labour Party leaders Dr. Okey Nwambu and Chief Mrs. Victoria Dibunma Onwubiko, Mayor of Obingwa LGA, Hon. Maxwell Nwadike, traditional ruler Eze Nwabiaraije Eneogwe, and healthcare expert Dr. Richard Okoye.

Also present was renowned Professor of Paediatrics, Prof. Kanu Nkanginieme, alongside traditional rulers, political leaders, community stakeholders, and residents from across the state.

These photographs capture memorable moments from the commissioning ceremony, showcasing not only the unveiling of a modern healthcare facility, but also the collective commitment of government, community leaders, and development partners to advancing quality, accessible healthcare and the vision of a healthier New Abia.





ABIA Ideas Village Spotlights Young Innovators @Youth Innovation Day



Participants from the Abia Youth Technology Build Program joined emerging startups to showcase locally developed solutions as the state marked its 35th anniversary

The creativity and entrepreneurial potential of young Abians took centre stage at the Abia Ideas Village, a major feature of the Abia Youth Innovation Day held in commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the creation of Abia State.

The Ideas Village brought together young innovators, startup founders, technology professionals, investors and ecosystem partners to exhibit products, exchange ideas and demonstrate the growing range of solutions being developed within the state.

Beyond being an exhibition, the Village offered a glimpse into the future of an Abia in which young people are not merely searching for opportunities but are actively creating them.

A major highlight was the participation of beneficiaries from the first two cohorts

of the Abia Youth Technology Build Program, an initiative of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation led by the Honourable Commissioner, Mr. David Kalu.

The intensive programme, held at the Manu-Tech Hub of the Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, introduced participants to computer-aided design, digital prototyping and modern manufacturing technologies.

At the Ideas Village, the participants moved from learning to demonstration, presenting innovations developed from the skills and concepts explored during the programme. Their participation reflected the broader objective of the initiative: to build a pipeline through which young Abians can acquire relevant technical skills, transform ideas into prototypes and ultimately develop solutions with commercial and social



value.

Speaking on the importance of the platform, the Special Assistant to the Governor on Digital Economy, Chibuzor Elizabeth Chijioke, said the Ideas Village was designed to make young innovators visible and connect them to the relationships required for growth.

"Too often, young people are trained and the journey ends with the presentation of a certificate. We want to build a different pathway in Abia, one that connects learning to building, building to visibility, and visibility to markets and investment," Chijioke said.

Among the enterprises showcased was Trashverse Recycling Technology Limited, a climate-focused startup addressing waste-management challenges through recycling and the conversion of discarded materials into economic value. The company's work demonstrates how young Abians are responding to environmental challenges while creating new livelihood opportunities within the circular economy.

Legal Chords was also featured among the emerging ventures at the Village, alongside other promising startups developing solutions across technology, education, sustainability, business services and the creative economy.

The Ideas Village created opportunities for the founders to explain their ideas directly to potential users, partners and investors. It also allowed participants to receive feedback, build relationships and gain the visibility that many early-stage businesses require to move from promising concepts to sustainable ventures.

For Abia State, historically recognised for enterprise, manufacturing and commerce, the Ideas Village represented a meeting point between its established entrepreneurial culture and the possibilities of the digital economy.

The event reinforced the vision of the administration of Governor Alex C. Otti, OFR, to make technology, innovation and youth enterprise important drivers of Abia's economic transformation. Under the administration, efforts have intensified to strengthen technology skills, encourage startup development, connect local businesses to digital opportunities and build a more

coordinated innovation ecosystem.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Engr. Mrs. Justina Eboh stated that the most important outcome of the Village was not the number of products displayed, but the confidence it gave young people to see themselves as contributors to Abia's development.

"At 35, we are celebrating Abia's journey, but we must also ask who will build its next chapter," she said. "The answer is in the young designer developing a prototype, the founder solving a community problem and the innovator who refuses to wait for perfect conditions before beginning."

She added that the Ideas Village would help government and ecosystem partners better understand the needs of young innovators, including access to technical support, funding, mentorship, markets, infrastructure and founder-friendly policies.

The Youth Innovation Day formed part of the activities organised to mark Abia at 35 and celebrate the state's progress, resilience and emerging possibilities. By placing young people and their ideas at the centre of the anniversary, the event sent a clear message: Abia's future will not only be remembered through its history; it will be built through the imagination, skills and enterprise of its people.

They are learning, experimenting, building and with the right support, their ideas can become businesses, jobs and solutions capable of transforming Abia and reaching markets far beyond the state.

“ Too often, young people are trained and the journey ends with the presentation of a certificate. We want to build a different pathway in Abia, one that connects learning to building, building to visibility, and visibility to markets and investment ”



The Executive Leadership SERIES

THEME: Strengthening Ethical Leadership and Public Service Delivery



Pictorials From The Executive Leadership Series of the Abia State Leadership Academy alongside His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR, the former Minister of Aviation, Chief Osita Chidoka, and other distinguished members of the Abia State Executive Council and public service held at the Michael Okpara Auditorium, Umuahia, as part of activities marking the 35th anniversary of the creation of Abia State.



ABIA AT 35 AND THE RISE OF THE NEW ABIA

▶ PICTORIALS



Barr. Nnenna Comfort Wogu & Pastor Osas Usunalele

WEDDING CEREMONY PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Love, tradition, and high-society distinction converged in grand style as Barr. Nnenna Comfort Wogu and Pastor Osas Usunalele exchanged marital vows. The auspicious union brought together the families of Hon. Allen & Deaconess Lizzy Wogu of Ohuru Isimiri, Aba, Abia State, and the Benin Royal Family of the Late Rt. Rev. Ikuobase Usunalele of Oredo Local Government Area, Edo State.

The event which was held at Christ Embassy, Port Harcourt, the auspicious occasion drew an array of distinguished leaders, statesmen, and prominent guests who gathered to witness and celebrate the couple's special day.

Among the eminent dignitaries in attendance were the Executive Governor of Abia State, His Excellency Dr. Alex Otti; Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Benjamin Kalu; distinguished Senator representing Anambra Central, Sen. Victor Umeh; and Engr. Enyinnaya Chima Nwafor, alongside a host of esteemed friends, family members, and well-wishers.

Below are the highlights and breathtaking moments captured from this memorable celebration.





2026 | AWADEC

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2026 ABIA WOMEN AUGUST DELEGATES CONFERENCE

The grand finale of the 2026 Abia Women August Delegates Conference, held on August 27, 2026, at the Aguiyi Ironsi Cenotaph, Ogurube Layout, Umuahia, brought together women from across the 17 Local Government Areas of Abia State in a celebration of leadership, enterprise, and inclusive development.

The event reaffirmed Governor Dr. Alex Otti, OFR's commitment to placing women at the heart of the New Abia agenda through policies that promote economic empowerment, family stability, and sustainable development.

The colorful gathering featured the participation of the First Lady, Mrs. Priscilla Chidinma Otti, the Commissioner for Women Affairs, Dr. Maureen Aghukwa, the Vice Chancellor of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Prof. Ursula Ngozi Akanwa, government officials, women leaders, traditional rulers, community stakeholders, entrepreneurs, and delegates from across the state.

These photographs captured memorable moments from the conference, reflecting the energy, unity, and shared resolve to build a future where Abia women are empowered to thrive as entrepreneurs, professionals, community builders, and indispensable partners in the continued transformation of the New Abia.

P I C T O R I A L S





HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2026 ABIA WOMEN AUGUST DELEGATES CONFERENCE

2026 | AWADEC

2026 | AWADEC

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2026 ABIA WOMEN AUGUST DELEGATES CONFERENCE





2026 | AWADEC: Otti Hails *Abia Women*, Says They Are Central To New Abia Agenda

By Amarachi Uzoukwu



Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, has described women as the bedrock of families and critical partners in the development of the state, assuring them of a prominent role in his administration's socio-economic transformation agenda.

Governor Otti stated this on Friday, at the grand finale of the 2026 Abia Women August Delegates Conference (AWADEC), held at the Aguiyi Ironsi Cenotaph, Ogurube Layout, Umuahia.

The Governor said the contribution of women to the stability of families and the development of society can not be taken for granted.

He stressed that his administration takes the welfare and advancement of women seriously.

"Women are the bedrock of the family. Anywhere the family is not together, look at the women, and we want to say that we cannot take any woman for granted.

"In the New Abia, we take women very, very seriously", Governor Otti said.

The governor urged Abia women to

remain resolute and focused in discharging their responsibilities, particularly in ensuring that their children do not become involved in crime, cultism and other activities capable of destroying their future.

The Governor said proper upbringing of children remains an important responsibility of mothers, noting that women who paid close attention to their families were more likely to raise children who turned out well.

"You must have your eyes on the ball and stay focused. Anywhere the woman is paying attention, the children turn out well", he stated.

Governor Otti also commended his wife, Mrs Priscilla Otti, for her interventions aimed at supporting vulnerable women across the state.

He specifically acknowledged her provision of housing for 35 vulnerable women and the Safe Tent Care Initiative, which provides support to women in business.

In her address, the wife of the governor Mrs Priscilla Otti called on women across Abia to embrace available opportunities,



BUILDING LEADERS FOR THE NEW ABIA

Highlights from the 2026 Abia State Leadership Academy Youth Leadership Boot Camp Graduation



The graduation of 1,086 young people from the 2026 Abia State Leadership Academy Youth Leadership Boot Camp, held on August 29, 2026, at the International Conference Centre, Ogurube Layout, Umuahia, marked another significant milestone in Governor Dr. Alex Chioma Otti, OFR's commitment to building a stronger and more prosperous New Abia through investment in human capital and the next generation of leaders.

The ceremony brought together Governor Otti and other distinguished personalities, including the President of the Abia State Leadership Academy, Prof. Kenneth Kalu; the Chairman of the Abia State Civil Service Commission, Pastor Mrs. Eno Jerry Eze; the Chief of Staff to the Governor, Pastor Caleb Ajagba; government officials, academics, development partners, young leaders, families and other distinguished guests who gathered to celebrate the achievements of the graduating cohort.

Selected from more than 7,000 applicants, the 1,086 graduates represent a deliberate investment in young people who can contribute meaningfully to the State's transformation. Their training emphasized leadership, innovation, enterprise, integrity and civic responsibility—values central to Governor Otti's vision of a New Abia capable of sustaining its own progress.

These photographs captured memorable moments from the graduation ceremony, celebrating the achievements of the young graduates and reaffirming the Otti administration's commitment to raising a generation of capable, responsible and innovative leaders who will carry the vision of the New Abia forward.

P I C T O R I A L S









CELEBRATING YOUNG CHANGEMAKERS



CHIBUZOR ELIZABETH CHIJOKE THE FUTURE AWARDS AFRICA INDEPENDENT

- For Public Service

Abia Governor's aide says recognition strengthens her resolve to expand digital opportunities and make government work better for young people

Chibuzor Elizabeth Chijioke, Special Assistant to the Governor of Abia State on Digital Economy, has won The Future Awards Africa Independent 2026 Prize for Public Service in Abia State.

The award recognises her contributions to digital transformation, technology policy, youth development and the growth of Abia's innovation ecosystem under the administration of Governor Alex C. Otti, OFR.

For Chijioke, however, the recognition is not simply a celebration of personal achievement. It represents something larger: the growing space for young people to contribute meaningfully within government and help shape the future of their communities.

"This award is deeply meaningful to me because public service is ultimately about people," she said. "It is about using every opportunity, platform and policy to

improve lives and create possibilities that may not have existed before. I dedicate this recognition first to God, whose grace has sustained me, to His Excellency, Dr. Alex Chioma Otti OFR for the opportunity to serve, to my family and friends who continue to support me along the way and to the people of Abia State, whose resilience and potential continue to inspire the work that we do."

The Future Awards Africa has, for nearly two decades, celebrated young Africans whose achievements are transforming communities and shaping the continent's future. Frequently described as one of Africa's foremost platforms for recognising young leaders, innovators and changemakers, the awards have spotlighted exceptional individuals across public service, technology, entrepreneurship, the creative industries and social impact.

In 2026, the organisation launched The Future Awards Africa Independent,

taking the platform closer to local communities through inaugural state awards in Abia, Rivers, Oyo and Kano. The initiative recognises young Nigerians whose work is producing tangible impact within their states.

Winning the Prize for Public Service in Abia carries particular significance for Chijioke. She serves in an administration that has made the rebuilding of public institutions, infrastructure and public confidence central to its agenda.

"Serving under His Excellency, Dr Alex C. Otti, OFR, has shown me what becomes possible when leadership is clear about its values and intentional about results," she said. "The Governor has given young people like me the opportunity to contribute, to bring new ideas into government and, most importantly, to turn those ideas into meaningful action. I do not take that confidence for granted."

In her role, Chijioke has contributed to efforts aimed at strengthening Abia's digital economy and ensuring that technology becomes a practical tool for economic opportunity rather than an abstract ambition.

Her work has included advancing conversations around digital transformation and technology policy, supporting the development of the state's startup ecosystem and building stronger relationships among government, founders, technology hubs, development organisations and innovation communities.

She facilitated the Abia Startup

Chijioke has contributed to efforts aimed at strengthening Abia's digital economy and ensuring that technology becomes a practical tool for economic opportunity rather than an abstract ambition.





CELEBRATING YOUNG CHANGEMAKERS



Roundtable, which brought founders, technology professionals, enterprise development organisations, investors, policymakers and ecosystem leaders together for honest conversations about the challenges facing startups in the state. The engagement also created room for practical discussions around funding, partnerships and the implementation of the duly passed Abia Startup Law.

Chijioke has also championed the digital awareness and growth of Abia's startups.

"For us, the digital economy is also about the artisan who should be able to reach customers beyond Abia, the young person who needs access to relevant skills, and the founder who deserves an environment in which an idea can become a sustainable business," she explained. "It is about connecting Abia's existing strengths to new markets and opportunities."

She has further supported ecosystem engagements focused on digital skills, innovation, entrepreneurship and partnerships capable of creating opportunities for young people. At the heart of the work is a commitment to position Abia as a competitive destination for technology, talent and innovation.

According to Chijioke, the award is an encouragement to deepen this work.

"Recognition is gratifying, but it must also create a greater sense of responsibility. This award challenges me to listen more closely, work more collaboratively and serve with even greater urgency," she said.

She noted that the progress being recorded is the product of collective effort, acknowledging her colleagues in government and the many ecosystem partners who make it easier for a young person to work, learn and contribute within public service.

"No meaningful result in government is achieved by one person," she added. "I am grateful to my distinguished colleagues, our partners, innovators, founders, community leaders and every public servant whose daily effort makes the work possible."

For other young Nigerians who desire to make a difference, Chijioke's journey offers a simple but important message: public service can be a place for courage, creativity and impact.

"Young people must not see government only as something distant from them," she said. "We must be willing to enter the room, understand how institutions work, contribute credible ideas and remain long enough to help build better systems."

As she celebrates the Prize for Public Service, Chijioke says her attention remains firmly on the work ahead.



VISIBLE INTERVENTION INITIATIVES OF ASOPADEC FROM 2023 – 2025

ABIA STATE OIL PRODUCING AREAS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (ASOPADEC)



HE. DR. ALEX CHIOMA OTTI OFR



VEN. DR. JOSHUA O. ONYEIKE FCAI, FICMC
General Manager

IN ASOPADEC

Our MISSION is to transform the oil producing communities of Abia State with the **VISION** to develop and sustain the economic progress of the oil producing areas and pipeline communities.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES

- * To facilitate the development of infrastructure and strengthening of capacity in the oil producing areas.
- * To promote the socio-economic advancement of the people.
- * To cooperate with the stakeholders in the attainment of the objective.
- * To improve the infrastructural base of the communities into semi urban towns and cities

OUR STRATEGIES:

- * Facilitating the delivery of equipment and rehabilitation of Health Centres, Mobile Health Clinics etc.
- * Providing capacity through micro-project management and trainings.
- * Encouraging establishment of skill acquisition centres.



CONSTRUCTION OF ASA CIVIC CENTER, OBEHIE,
UKWA WEST LGA



FENCING, LANDSCAPING, DRAINAGE etc OF
ASA CIVIC CENTER PREMISES, UKWA WEST LGA



CONSTRUCTION OF ETI COMMUNITY HALL,
UKWA EAST LGA



CONSTRUCTION OF UMUEZEGU HALL, NSULU,
ISIALA NGWA NORTH LGA



RECONSTRUCTION AND EXPANSION OF
UMUOPERE VILLAGE HALL OBERETE
ISIALA IBEME, OBINGWA LGA



CONSTRUCTION OF AMAORJI UMENKWUOHU
CIVIC HALL OBEAKU NDOKI, UKWA EAST LGA

- * Providing required and relevant expertise to farmers, including agric inputs and equipment.
- * Providing rural electrification, water, town halls etc.
- * Rehabilitating existing infrastructures such as drainages, culverts, etc.

FROM INTERVENTION TO IMPACT: ASOPADEC'S DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN ABIA STATE OIL-PRODUCING COMMUNITIES AND BEYOND. 2023-2025

For decades, oil-producing communities have remained critical to Nigeria's economic development, yet many have continued to grapple with infrastructural deficits and other development challenges. In Abia State, since the assumption of office by the visionary Governor, His Excellency, Dr Alex Otti, OFR, Abia State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (ASOPADEC) has continued to pursue its mandate of improving the quality of life in oil-producing communities through targeted development interventions.

Within the period under review, the Commission led by its General Manager, Dr. Joshua Ogadinma Onyeike, has embarked on a range of projects designed to address pressing community needs and promote sustainable development. These interventions cut across education, healthcare, roads, electricity, markets, civic infrastructure, agriculture, youth empowerment and other social development initiatives.

Beyond the construction of physical infrastructure, these projects represent a deliberate effort to bridge development gaps, strengthen community confidence and create an enabling environment for economic growth. From intervention to impact, the story of ASOPADEC during this period is one of translating government commitment and resources into visible projects that touch lives and contribute to the transformation of Abia State's oil-producing communities.



CONSTRUCTION OF UMUKWOR CIVIC HALL, UKWA WEST LGA



CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF MARKET STALLS ARE AHIA ORIE, OBOKWE, UKWA WEST LGA



CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF BLOCKS OF LOCK UP STORES AND OPEN MARKET STALLS EACH AT AHIA-NKWO ETTITIOHA OWAZA, UKWA WEST LGA



CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF OPEN MARKET STALLS AND LOCKUP SHOPS AT UGWUMABIRI MARKET MBAWSI, ISIALA NGWA NORTH LGA



CONSTRUCTION OF FOURTEEN (14) BLOCKS OF TEN (10NOS) OPEN MARKET STALL AND RENOVATION OF TWO BLOCKS OF TEN (10NOS) OPEN MARKET STALLS AT AHIA ORIE UMUAJIOHA OBUZOR ASA COMMUNITY MARKET, UKWA WEST LGA



CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF LOCK UP STORES, OPEN MARKET STALLS AND MARKET SHADES AT AHIA ORIE UMUKPARA OWAZA, UKWA WEST LGA



CONSTRUCTION OF OPEN MARKET STALLS AT AHIA ORIE AMAPU NTIGHA MARKET, ISIALA NGWA NORTH LGA



CONSTRUCTION OF COMPUTER HALL AT MBATO SECONDARY SCHOOL UMUNGALAGU NVOSI AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY, ISIALA NGWA SOUTH LGA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

In line with its statutory mandate of transforming the socio-economic landscape of oil-producing communities, the Commission has continued to implement people-oriented projects designed to improve the quality of life of residents and stimulate sustainable development. These interventions are aimed at addressing critical infrastructure deficits, promoting inclusive growth, and creating an enabling environment for social and economic prosperity.

Recognising that meaningful development goes beyond the exploration and production of natural resources, the Commission embarked on the construction and rehabilitation of essential public infrastructure across beneficiary communities. These projects include the construction of modern civic centres, reconstruction of community civic halls, development of market stalls, construction and renovation of school blocks, hospitals buildings and other healthcare facilities. These initiatives reflect the Commission's commitment to enhancing the welfare of the people while fostering peace, unity, and sustainable development in the Niger Delta region.

The economic and social significance of these infrastructure projects cannot be overstated.

Civic centres and civic halls serve as venues for community meetings, social events, educational programmes, cultural activities, and skills acquisition workshops. They strengthen community cohesion, promote dialogue, and provide spaces for developmental engagements and peaceful conflict resolution.



RE-ROOFING OF ASOPADEC OFFICE COMPLEX, UMUAHIA NORTH LGA



RECONSTRUCTION OF AMATO - AMAEDE SECONDARY SCHOOL HALL, ISIALA NGWA SOUTH LGA



RENOVATION OF THREE (3) NOS. CLASSROOM BLOCK AT OWO ASA, UKWA WEST LGA



RECONSTRUCTION OF A TWO (2) CLASSROOM BLOCK AND TWO (2) OFFICES AT OBEHIE CENTRAL SCHOOL, UKWA WEST LGA



RENOVATION OF CRECHE FACILITY FOR NURSING MOTHERS AT HIGH COURT UMUAHIA NORTH



CONSTRUCTION OF A THREE BEDROOM FLAT FOR NURSES AT COTTAGE HOSPITAL OWAZA, UKWA WEST LGA



CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL BLOCK OF THREE (3) FLATS AT OBEHIE HEALTH CENTRE, UKWA WEST LGA



CONSTRUCTION OF PERIMETER FENCE OF OZAA SECONDARY SCHOOL (1.4KM), UKWA WEST LGA

Market stalls enhance commercial activities by providing traders with secure and organised business environments. They stimulate local economies, encourage entrepreneurship, increase household incomes, create employment opportunities, and improve internally generated revenue for local communities.

School blocks provide a conducive

learning environment that improves access to quality education, reduces overcrowding, and enhances teaching and learning.

Collectively, these infrastructure projects serve as catalysts for sustainable community development. They not only improve living standards but also attract investment, create

employment during and after construction, stimulate local businesses, and strengthen the social and economic resilience of oil-producing communities. Through these interventions, the Commission continues to fulfil its mandate of ensuring that the benefits of oil wealth translate into tangible and lasting development for the people

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION, ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

In fulfilment of its statutory mandate to drive sustainable development and improve the living conditions of people in oil-producing communities and pipeline crossing, the Commission has continued to implement strategic intervention projects that address critical infrastructure deficits and promote socio-economic transformation. The interventions in these areas were designed to bridge the development gap, stimulate economic activities, reduce poverty, and enhance the overall well-being of residents of the areas

In line with the above, a holistic approach to community development was engaged as follows: The Commission embarked on the provision of electricity infrastructure, including the installation of transformers and extension of power distribution networks, construction and rehabilitation of road infrastructure, and implementation of agricultural development programmes. These projects are carefully selected to respond to the immediate needs of the people while laying a solid foundation for long-term economic growth, improved livelihoods, and sustainable development.



REHABILITATION OF ELECTRICITY AND INSTALLATION OF TRANSFORMERS IN 31 COMMUNITIES OF UKWA WEST



RECONSTRUCTION OF OBEHIE CENTRAL SCHOOL TO OJINMA JUNCTION SECTION OF THE OBEHIE CENTRAL SCHOOL TO 144 BATTALION JUNCTION ROAD (720M), UKWA WEST LGA



REHABILITATION OF ONU MKPO TO EGBELU ROAD (1.6KM) UMUNTEKE, UKWA WEST LGA



GRADING OF 8KM ROAD AT OWO ASA UMUADIEWE, UKWA WEST LGA



CONSTRUCTION OF 1.2KM UMUOKOMIRI ROAD (EXPRESS TO OBEHIE ROUND ABOUT), UKWA WEST LGA



CONSTRUCTION DRAINS FROM OBEHIE TO AKWAETE BY UMUNTEKE ROAD JUNCTION TO UNUMKPO ROAD UKWA WEST LGA (2.4KM)



REHABILITATION OF SELECTED UMUNTEKE INTERNAL ROADS UKWA WEST LGA (3.3 KM)



AFTER (UDUOMA TO ONUMKPO ROAD, 1.13km)



REHABILITATION OF UMUORIE TO INNER GALAXY LINK ROAD (1.7KM) UMUORIE, UKWA WEST LGA



DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS TO RURAL WOMEN IN UKWA WEST AND EAST LGAs

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT, EMPOWERMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE INTERVENTION PROJECTS

In furtherance of its statutory mandate to transform the socio-economic landscape of oil-producing communities and beyond, the Commission has continued to invest in human capital development through strategic educational and social welfare intervention programmes. Recognising that sustainable development is achieved not only through physical infrastructure but also through investment in people, the Commission has prioritised initiatives that expand access to education, promote social

inclusion, and improve the welfare of vulnerable groups.

As part of these interventions, the Commission has implemented scholarship programmes for deserving students, provided educational aids such as textbooks, school bags, writing materials, and extended support to the less privileged through donations of relief materials, assistive devices, and other humanitarian assistance. These initiatives are designed to reduce educational and social inequalities, empower individuals, and creat

opportunities for self-reliance and community development. Investment in education develops human capital, equips young people with relevant knowledge and skills, and contributes to long-term economic growth and poverty reduction.

Hospital buildings improve access to quality healthcare services, reduce maternal and child mortality, enhance disease prevention and treatment, and promote healthier communities. A healthy population is more productive, leading to increased economic output



ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS IN THE 2024 / 2025 UNDER GRADUATES SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME (104 GRADUATED AND 68 NEW INTAKES)



REGISTRATION OF WAEC FOR 135 STUDENTS AND JAMB FOR 110 STUDENTS IN 2023 / 2024



PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS TO 49 SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE 1,000 CUSTOMIZED BAGS, 10,000 (40 LEAVES) AND 10,000 (60 LEAVES) EXERCISE BOOKS



SKILLS ACQUISITION IN UKWA WEST AND EAST LGAs



SOCIAL VISIT TO SCHOOL OF THE BLIND, AFARAUKWU UMUAHIA AND SDA MOTHERLESS BABIES HOME ABA

SPECIAL VISIT TO DISABILITY CLUSTER AND SUZANA HOME IN UKWA WEST LGA

SPECIAL VISIT TO DISABILITY AND SPECIAL GROUPS IN UKWA WEST

S/N	SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECTS	LOCATION
1	Distribution of Agricultural Inputs to Rural Women	Ukwa West LGA
2	Social Visit to School of the Blind, Afaraukwu Umuahia, and Suzana Homes Obuzor	Umuahia North and Ukwa West LGAs
3	Partnership with Optometric Association of Nigeria, for an Outreach on eye care services and Payment of hospital bills for indigent citizens	Ukwa West LGA
4	Partnered with Abia State Eye Health Management Bureau for retrofitting of eye care centre in the Okeipke General Hospital	Ukwa West LGA
5	Partnership with Mater Misericordia hospital Uwani, Enugu for free health care outreach program	Two Centers in Ukwa West LGA
6	Procurement of wheel chair to a disabled person (Mrs. Ekpo Queen from Ukwa West LGA	Ukwa West LGA
7	Procurement of Generating set to a physically challenged (Mr. Benson N. Oriaku from Umuahia North LGA	Umuahia North LGA
8	Partnered with the Office of Her Excellency for the Construction of Creche at Umuahia High Court.	Umuahia North LGA
9	Special Visit to Orphanage Home Lohum	Bende LGA
10	Special Visit to St. Vincent the Paul Destitute Home Umuafia Ndume.	Umuahia North LGA
11	Special Visit to Intimate Care Orphanage Home	Osisioma LGA
12	Special Visit to SDA Motherless Babies Home	Aba North LGA
13	Donation of Braille Materials to a Visually impaired	Ohafia LGA
14	Special visit to Ahiaeke Motherless Babies Home	Umuahia North
15	Special visit to Disability Group in Ukwa West	Ukwa West
16	Special visit to Ngwa Road Motherless Babies Home	Aba

BOREHOLE PROJECTS



DRILLING OF BOREHOLE AND RETICULATION WITH TANKS AT UMUELECHI OBUZOR KINGDOM ISIMIRI, UKWA WEST LGA



DRILLING OF WATER BOREHOLE AND RETICULATION AT ABAKI NDOKI, UKWA EAST LGA



DRILLING OF WATER BOREHOLE WITH TANK AND STANCHION AT AKANU NDOKI VILLAGE IN IKWUORIE ATO IN NDOKI, UKWA EAST LGA



DRILLING OF WATER BOREHOLE AND RETICULATION AT OHANDU AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY OHANDU NDOKI, UKWA EAST LGA



DRILLING OF MOTORIZED BOREHOLE AT CUSTODIAL CENTRE UMUHIA NORTH LGA



CONSTRUCTION OF BOREHOLE AT UMUADIENWE, UKWA WEST LGA



DRILLING OF BOREHOLE AT ASCENSION JUNIOR SEMINARY SCHOOL COMPOUND, UKWA WEST LGA



DRILLING OF WATER BOREHOLE AT OBAJI VILLAGE ISIALA NTEKE, UKWA WEST LGA



DRILLING OF WATER BORE HOLE AT UMUEZEKE OBINGWU RD ASA NORTH, UKWA WEST LGA



CONSTRUCTION OF WATER BOREHOLE AT UMUAKA, UKWA WEST LGA



CONSTRUCTION OF BOREHOLE AT MKPOROBE, UKWA WEST



CONSTRUCTION OF BOREHOLE AT UMUINWERE, OBOKWE, UKWA WEST LGA

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS AND HEALTH OUTREACH



DESILTING OF DRAINAGES AT VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN UKWA WEST LGA



HEALTH OUTREACH PROGRAMME



- * Desilting of Drainage at Umuadienwe / Okeikpe Obahu Road.
- * Umuiku Central School Umuebulungwu / Obohia Obehie market road to express.

- * Umuokomiri Obehie road.
- * Obehie / Umuada road Umunteke Obohia Road,
- * Uzuaku Road, Obiga Road.

BEAUTIFUL PLACES IN ABIA STATE — WORTH VISITING —

By Sandra Chibuikwe

When people think of tourist attractions in Nigeria, their minds may immediately travel to the beaches of Lagos, the hills of Cross River or the amazing landscapes of Plateau State. But tucked away in the southeastern part of the country is a state with an impressive collection of natural wonders, historical landmarks and cultural treasures waiting to be explored.

Abia State is not only known for commerce and industry. Beyond the busy markets and streets lies another side of the state—one filled with history, nature, culture and interesting stories.

From the mysterious caves of Arochukwu to the beautiful blue river of Azumini, from the historic National War Museum in Umuahia to the remarkable Amakama wooden Cave. Abia has places capable of giving visitors memorable experiences.

Interestingly, the state government has identified numerous heritage and tourism sites across the state and is working with the Federal Government to develop some of them into major tourism destinations.

Here are some beautiful and fascinating tourist attractions in Abia State worth visiting.

1. AZUMINI BLUE RIVER – UKWA EAST



Imagine arriving at a quiet riverside and being greeted by remarkably clear, blue-tinged water surrounded by greenery. This is part of the charm of the Azumini Blue River, located in Azumini community in Ukwa East Local Government Area.

The river is one of Abia's best-known natural attractions. Its unusual clarity and peaceful surroundings make it an appealing destination for visitors looking for relaxation, photography and a closer experience of

nature. Studies of the area also identify Azumini as a community with a long history connected to trade and river transportation.

Besides the blue river, the surrounding community, its traditional way of life and the opportunity to experience the natural environment make a visit to Azumini more meaningful.

The Abia State Government has also listed the development of the Azumini Blue River among its tourism-related projects, showing the growing importance attached to the site.

2. AROCHUKWU LONG JUJU/CAVE AND WATERFALL– A JOURNEY INTO HISTORY



Few places in Abia carry as much historical weight as Arochukwu.

At the heart of Arochukwu is Ibini Ukpabi, popularly known as the Long Juju. The site is associated with an ancient oracle that played an important religious and judicial role in the history of the Aro people and the wider southeastern region.



The Long Juju site is associated with caves, tunnels, a gully, a waterfall and other features that form part of what is commonly called the Arochukwu Long Juju Slave Route.

Arochukwu Waterfalls (locally known in Igbo as "Ogba n'Nkume", which translates to "waterfall and steps") is a natural and cultural attraction site located in Amannagwu Village, Arochukwu Kingdom.

The waterfall is famous for a stone staircase consisting of exactly 79 steps that descend into a forested gorge where the waterfall flows into a natural pool.

For anyone interested in history, Arochukwu offers an experience that goes beyond sightseeing. It provides an opportunity to stand in a place where religion, politics, justice, trade and colonial history once intersected.

3. NATIONAL WAR MUSEUM – UMUAHIA



For lovers of history, the National War Museum, Umuahia is a destination worth visiting.

Located at Ebite Amafor in Isingwu, Umuahia North Local Government Area, the museum preserves military relics associated particularly with the Nigerian Civil War of 1967–1970. Its collections include military equipment, armoured vehicles, aircraft and other historical materials.

The museum was commissioned in 1985 and was established to preserve the memory of the war and promote reflection on its consequences. Its significance goes beyond military hardware; it provides an opportunity for younger generations to learn about a defining period in Nigeria's history and the importance of peace and national reconciliation.

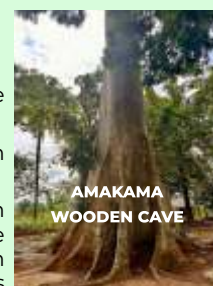
The museum is currently receiving renewed attention. In 2026, the Federal Government approved intervention for the comprehensive retrofitting of the National War Museum and the Ojukwu Bunker, with the aim of repositioning them as major tourism and educational destinations.

4. AMAKAMA WOODEN CAVE – UMUAHIA SOUTH

Nature has a way of creating attractions that are difficult to believe until you see them.

The Amakama Wooden Cave is one such curiosity.

Located in Isienyi-Ukwu village of Amakama in Umuahia South Local Government Area, the attraction is an enormous hollowed silk-cotton tree popularly known as the "Wonder Tree." Its hollow interior is large enough to accommodate several people.



What makes the site particularly fascinating is that, despite its hollow interior, the tree remains alive.

The Amakama Wooden Cave combines natural wonder with history and local heritage, making it an unusual destination for visitors who enjoy discovering attractions that are different from the conventional tourist sites.

MORE THAN A PLACE TO PASS THROUGH

Abia State is often introduced through its reputation as a commercial and industrial hub, particularly because of the entrepreneurial spirit associated with Aba. But there is another Abia waiting to be discovered.

It is an Abia of rivers and forests, caves and ancient landmarks, museums and monuments, traditional crafts and fascinating stories.

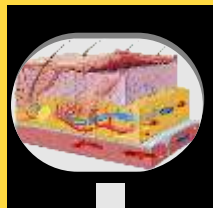
The beauty of the state is not found only in its physical landscape. It is also found in the people who preserve its traditions, the communities that carry its history and the stories that have survived from one generation to another.

As efforts to develop and preserve the state's tourism asset, Abia has an opportunity to transform these attractions listed and many more, into destinations that educate, entertain, create jobs and generate new economic opportunities.

Perhaps the next time you are planning a holiday or simply looking for somewhere different to explore, you do not have to travel very far. Look around Abia.

There may be a beautiful place, an unforgettable experience and a remarkable story waiting to be discovered.

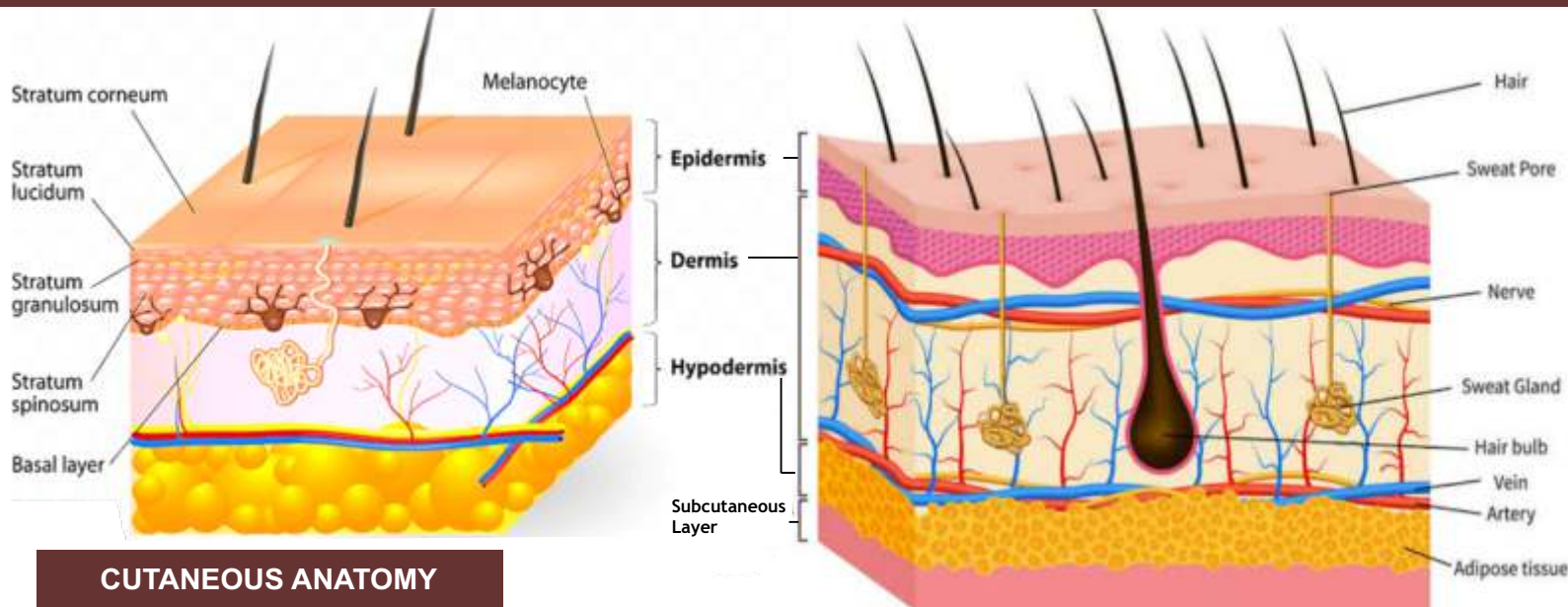
HEALTH TIPS



By: Prince Blessing Lazarus

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Bliss Exclusive Int'l

The Skin Unlocking Their Secrets



CUTANEOUS ANATOMY

The **Skin** is the largest organ of the body, serving as a protective barrier against external factors like injury, infection, and dehydration.

A complex, multilayered organ that regulates body temperature, protects against external stressors, and facilitates sensory perception. The integumentary system, comprising the epidermis, dermis, and hypodermis, which provides protection, sensation, and regulation of body functions.

CUTANEOUS COMPOSITION

The skin is composed of several layers, primarily:

1. Epidermis: The outermost layer, providing a barrier against external factors. This layer has 5 sub-layers (strata):

1. Stratum corneum (outermost, dead cells)
2. Stratum lucidum (clear layer)
3. Stratum granulosum (granular layer)
4. Stratum spinosum (spiny layer)
5. Stratum basale (innermost, cell regeneration)

2. Dermis: The middle layer, containing blood vessels, nerve endings, and hair follicles, which are:

1. Blood vessels
2. Nerve endings
3. Hair follicles
4. Sweat glands
5. Collagen and elastin fibers (for strength and elasticity)

3. Hypodermis: The innermost layer, composed of subcutaneous fat and connective tissue and Composed of:

1. Subcutaneous fat (energy storage, insulation)
2. Connective tissue (supports skin)

SKIN PERFORMANCE

The skin works by performing several key functions:

Protection: shields the body from injury, germs, chemicals, and excessive sunlight.

Temperature regulation: helps keep body temperature stable through sweating and blood-flow changes.

Sensation: allows us to feel touch, pressure, pain, heat, and cold.

Immunity: serves as an important first line of defense against infection.

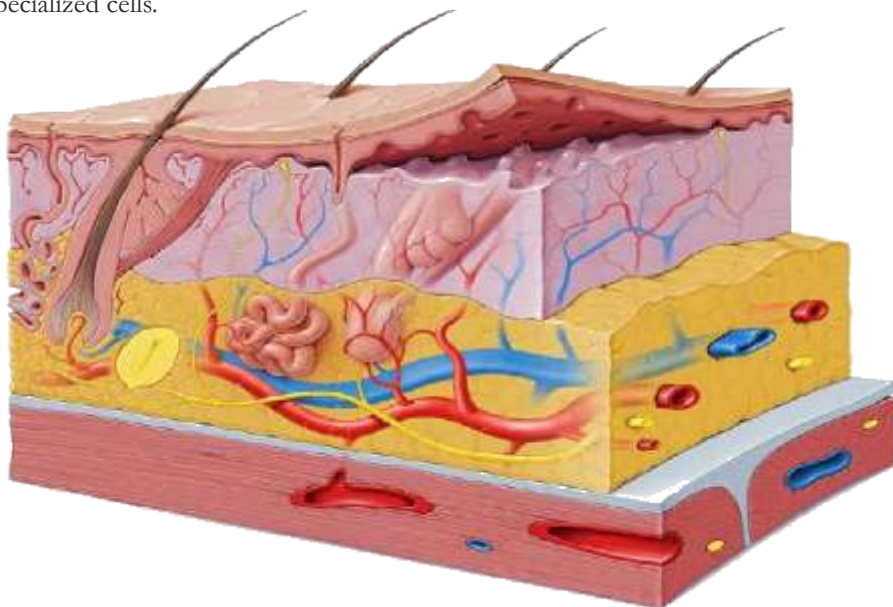
Water balance: helps prevent excessive loss of body fluids.

Vitamin D production: sunlight triggers. These functions are facilitated by the skin's layers, nerve endings, blood vessels, and specialized cells.

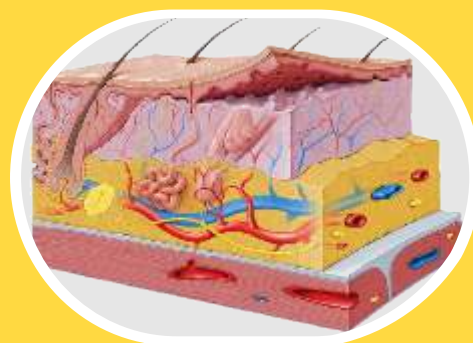
DERMATOLOGICAL ELEMENTS AND FUNCTIONS

key parts of the skin and their functions:

1. Epidermis: Protects against external factors, regulates water loss
2. Dermis: Supports structure, contains blood vessels, nerve endings
3. Sweat glands: Regulate body temperature through sweat production
4. Sebaceous glands: Produce sebum (oil) for skin moisturizing
5. Nerve endings: Enable sensation (touch, pain, temperature)
6. Melocytes: Produce melanin (skin pigment)



The skin is more than beauty. It is protection, sensation, temperature control, immunity, and a vital connection between the body and the outside world. "Your skin is not merely what people see; it is a living shield that works for you every second of every day."



SKIN'S ADVERSARIES

1. Dermatological Threats
2. Skin Foes
3. Cutaneous Culprits
4. Skin Saboteurs

Common skin enemies include:

1. **UV radiation:** Causes premature aging, wrinkles, and skin cancer risk
2. **Pollution:** Leads to clogged pores, inflammation, and dull skin
3. **Stress:** Triggers acne, eczema, and psoriasis flare-ups
4. **Poor diet:** Lacks essential nutrients, leading to skin issues
5. **Harsh products:** Strips skin of natural oils, causing dryness and irritation

SKIN'S HEALTHY HABITS

- Adequate hydration.
- Balanced nutrition.
- Proper cleansing.
- Moisturizing when needed.
- Adequate sleep: 7-9 hours for skin repair and renewal
- Sun protection: Use SPF, wear protective clothing
- Regular physical activity.
- Avoiding unnecessary irritation and harsh products.
- 6. Manage stress: Exercise, meditate, or relax
- 7. Exfoliate gently: Remove dead skin cells, 1-2 times a week.

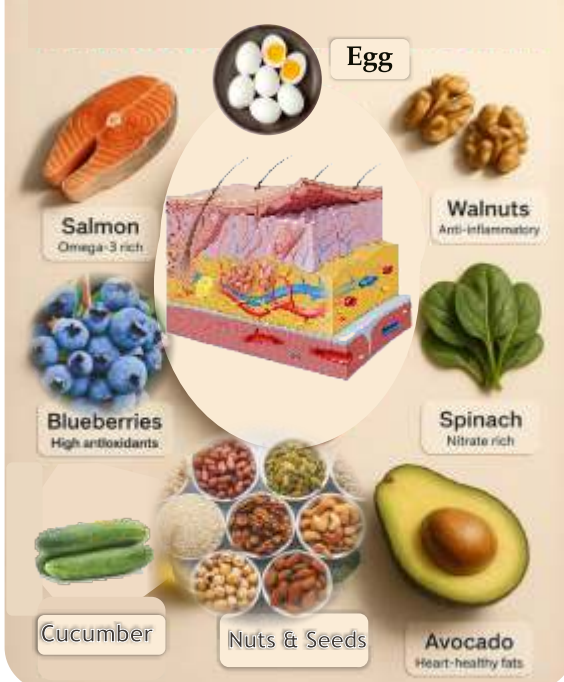
SKIN'S DISTRESS SIGNALS

1. Unusual moles or patches: Changes in size, shape, or color
 2. Persistent itching or redness: Could indicate allergies, eczema, or psoriasis
 3. Dry, cracked skin: May signal dehydration or underlying conditions
 4. Acne or breakouts: Hormonal changes, stress, or product reactions
- Skin lesions or sores: Non-healing wounds or unusual growths

SKIN-BOOSTING FOODS

1. **Salmon:** Rich in omega-3s, reduces inflammation
 2. **Avocados:** Healthy fats, vitamins E and C for skin elasticity
 3. **Berries:** Antioxidants fight free radicals, promote collagen
 4. **Leafy greens:** Vitamins A, C, E support skin renewal
 5. **Nuts and Seeds:** Vitamin E, healthy fats for skin hydration
 6. **Carrots, Sweet potatoes:** Beta-carotene, antioxidant for skin protection
 7. **Tomatoes:** Lycopene, reduces UV damage
 8. **Oranges:** - Rich in Vitamin C for Collagen Production
 9. **Guava:** Rich in Vitamin C, Antioxidant
 10. **Pawpaw:** Rich in Vitamin A, C and Antioxidant
 11. **Beans:** Rich in protein, zinc and others
 12. **Egg:** Protein and nutrients involved in maintaining skin structure
 13. **Water:** For overall hydration
 14. **Spinach and other leafy green:** Vitamin A, C, E and Antioxidant
 15. **Oats:** Provides nutrients and fiber
 16. **Cucumber,** High in water for hydration
- Watermelon:** High in water and Antioxidants
Almond: Good source of Vitamin E

SKIN: HEALTHY FOOD



COMMON SKIN PROBLEMS

- Acne.
- Eczema.
- Psoriasis.
- Fungal infections.
- Dermatitis.
- Dry skin.
- Hyperpigmentation.
- Allergic reactions.
- Wounds and scars.

Pay attention to:

- A new growth or sore that does not heal.
- A mole or spot that changes significantly.
- Persistent itching or unexplained rash.
- Recurrent infections.
- Sudden widespread changes.
- Pain, swelling, bleeding, or pus.

THE DANGERS OF SKIN BLEACHING

- Unregulated bleaching creams.
- Excessive use of topical steroids.
- Mercury-containing products.
- Skin thinning and irritation.
- Uneven pigmentation.
- Increased sensitivity.
- Possible systemic harm from certain unsafe ingredients.

SKIN MAINTANANCE

DO:

- Cleanse gently.
- Keep wounds clean.
- Use clean towels and personal items.
- Moisturize dry skin.
- Protect exposed skin from excessive sun.

AVOID:

- Aggressive scrubbing.
- Picking pimples or wounds.
- Sharing personal skin-care tools.
- Using unknown products simply because they are advertised as "natural."

Important point: Not every skin problem should be treated with a home remedy or cosmetic product. Persistent, painful, rapidly changing, infected, or unusual lesions deserve professional medical assessment.

For more on this topic visit hopkinsmedicine.org

The Funkees:

The Nigerian Band That Turned Post-War Pain Into Afro-Rock



From a military band in post-Civil War Eastern Nigeria to London stages, The Funkees became one of Nigeria's most exciting Afro-rock groups of the 1970s

• • • • •

In the history of Nigerian music, some bands became household names while others became treasures waiting to be rediscovered. The Funkees belong to the second category.

Emerging from the turbulence of post-Civil War Nigeria, The Funkees transformed themselves from a military-linked band in Aba into one of the most energetic Afro-rock groups of the 1970s. Their music combined electric guitars, funk, rock, soul, percussion and African rhythms, creating a sound that was unmistakably Nigerian but also connected to the international music revolution of the era.

The group became particularly influential in Eastern Nigeria, where they developed a reputation for keeping audiences dancing through long nights. Soundway Records describes them as the leading band in Eastern Nigeria in the early 1970s and notes that they were among the few groups capable of challenging Lagos-based rock acts such as MonoMono and BLO.

Born From the Ashes of War

The story of The Funkees is inseparable from the aftermath of the Nigerian Civil War.

The band was formed around the end of the war by Harry Mosco Agada, who had previously played guitar with Celestine Ukwu's Music Royals. The early group performed for the Nigerian Army's 12th Brigade in Aba and went through several changes in personnel as its members searched for the right combination of musicians. This beginning is particularly significant.

The Nigerian Civil War had left enormous destruction and

trauma, especially across the former Eastern Region. Yet as the war ended, a new generation of young Nigerians began searching for ways to rebuild ordinary life. Music became part of that process.

The Funkees represented a youthful energy that emerged from this difficult period. Their music was lively, electric and heavily focused on dancing. Rather than allowing the darkness of the period to define everything around them, they helped create a new atmosphere in which young people could gather, dance and enjoy themselves again.

The Guardian's photographic history of 1970s Nigerian rock notes that The Funkees played their first show around the time the Civil War effectively ended and quickly became one of the most beloved bands in the former Biafra.

The Sound of a New Generation

The Funkees were not simply a highlife band. Their music drew from several international and African influences, including funk, rock, soul, Afrobeat and highlife. Their arrangements were driven by electric guitars, bass, organ, drums and percussion.

Their lyrics could move between Igbo and English, giving the music both a local identity and a wider accessibility. This mixture was central to their appeal.

A listener could hear the influence of Western rock and funk while still recognising the African rhythmic foundation underneath it. The result was Afro-rock—a style that was particularly vibrant in Nigeria during the late 1960s and 1970s.



The Musicians Behind the Sound

The Funkees went through several line-up changes during their existence. Among the important members associated with the band were Harry Mosco, Jake N. Sollo, Chyke Madu, Mohammed Ahidjo, Sonny Akpabio, Danny Heibs, Tony Mallett, Roli Paterson and Sunny Akpan.

Harry Mosco was particularly important to the band's formation and identity, serving as a guitarist, vocalist and bandleader.

Another major figure was Jake Sollo, whose work as a guitarist, organist and vocalist would later become important beyond The Funkees.

The concentration of talented musicians within the group is one reason The Funkees have become so interesting to historians and collectors of Nigerian popular music.

The band was not simply a successful musical group; it was also a training ground for musicians who would continue making their mark after its eventual breakup.

They Wanted You on the Dance Floor

If there was one thing The Funkees understood, it was how to make people move. Soundway Records notes that the group's priority was the dance floor and that they could perform for extremely long periods, sometimes playing through the night.

Their songs were therefore built around strong grooves. Tracks such as "Akpankoro," "Onye



Mmnya," "Akula Owu Onyeara," "Dancing Time," "Mimbo" and "Slipping Into Darkness" demonstrate the band's ability to take familiar musical ideas and turn them into energetic Afro-rock performances.

Their version of War's "Slipping Into Darkness" is particularly notable. The band took an American funk song and gave it their own Nigerian interpretation, demonstrating how musicians of the period were actively exchanging ideas between Africa and the wider world.

From Aba to London

The Funkees' growing reputation eventually attracted attention outside Nigeria.

In the early 1970s, the band relocated to London, joining a wider movement of African musicians who travelled to Britain in search of larger audiences, better recording opportunities and international exposure. The move transformed their career.

In London, they developed a strong following among West African and Caribbean communities and became known for their energetic live performances. Soundway Records notes that they quickly established a strong reputation on the London live circuit. The band also performed alongside major international acts, including Kool & the Gang and Osibisa, according to Soundway Records.

For musicians who had started out playing in post-war Eastern Nigeria, this

represented an extraordinary journey. They had gone from playing for soldiers and local audiences in Aba to performing for international audiences in London.

"Point of No Return"

In London, The Funkees recorded their first major album, Point of No Return, released in 1974.

The title itself would eventually acquire an almost symbolic quality.

The album captured the band's Afro-rock identity and helped introduce their music to listeners beyond Nigeria. Its recordings demonstrated the band's ability to combine African rhythms with the heavy guitar sounds, funk grooves and psychedelic influences that were popular during the 1970s. The album remains one of the key documents of Nigerian Afro-rock from the period.

"Now I'm a Man"

The band followed with Now I'm a Man, released in 1976. The album's cover, showing members of the group dressed in unmistakable 1970s fashion, has itself become part of the visual history of Nigerian popular music. Together, the two albums provide an important record of the group's development during its London years. They also show how Nigerian musicians were not merely receiving foreign musical influences—they were actively transforming those influences and sending something new back into the international music scene.



FESTAC '77

One of the most significant moments associated with The Funkees came in 1977, when the band returned to Nigeria during the Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture, FESTAC '77, held in Lagos.

FESTAC brought artists, musicians and cultural representatives from across Africa and the African diaspora to Nigeria.

For The Funkees, appearing in Nigeria during such a major international celebration of Black culture was a significant moment.

However, the period also coincided with the final stages of the group's existence. The Funkees eventually broke up in 1977, bringing a relatively short but remarkable chapter to an end.

A Band That Became Bigger After Breaking Up

One of the fascinating things about The Funkees is that their reputation did not disappear when the group ended.

Instead, their music gradually became a collector's treasure.

For decades, their original vinyl records were difficult to find. Then, as international interest in vintage African music increased, record labels began searching through Nigeria's musical archives.

In 2012, Soundway Records released *Dancing Time: The Best of Eastern Nigeria's Afro Rock Exponents 1973-77*, a compilation containing 18 tracks drawn from the band's Nigerian singles and two

albums.

The reissue introduced The Funkees to a new generation of listeners.

Tracks that had once been heard primarily in Nigerian clubs and dance halls were suddenly being played by DJs, collectors and music enthusiasts around the world.

Why The Funkees Matter Today

The Funkees matter because they demonstrate that Nigerian music history was never a single straight line.

While Lagos was developing its own influential rock, highlife and Afrobeat scenes, Eastern Nigeria was producing musicians with completely different experiences and musical perspectives.

The Funkees captured the spirit of that environment.

They were young, experimental and energetic. Their music reflected a generation that had experienced war but was determined to dance again.

Their sound also demonstrates how Nigerian musicians adapted international genres rather than simply copying them.

Rock became Afro-rock.

Funk became Nigerian funk.

Western guitar techniques were placed alongside African percussion.

English was mixed with Igbo.

And the result was something that belonged to Nigeria.

More Than a Vintage Band

Today, The Funkees are often mentioned alongside the great Nigerian Afro-rock

and Afro-funk groups of the 1970s.

But their importance goes beyond their recordings.

They represent a particular moment in Nigerian history: the years immediately following the Civil War, when a young generation was rebuilding its social life and creating new forms of popular culture.

Their story also reminds us that some of Nigeria's greatest musical achievements were created outside the conventional spotlight.

The Funkees came from Eastern Nigeria, crossed into the international music scene, recorded influential albums and eventually disappeared as a group. Yet their music refused to disappear.

The Rhythm Lives On

The story of The Funkees is ultimately a story of movement.

From military performances in Aba to clubs across Eastern Nigeria.

From Nigeria to London.

From vinyl records to digital streaming.

From obscurity to rediscovery.

And from the aftermath of war to dance floors filled with young people.

Their career may have lasted only a few years, but those years produced a body of music that continues to attract listeners more than four decades after the band broke up.

The Funkees proved that Nigerian musicians could take the sounds of a changing world, mix them with their own cultural experiences and create something entirely new.

They did not merely play Afro-rock. They helped define what Nigerian Afro-rock could become.

And every time one of their old records spins again, the dance floor of 1970s Nigeria comes alive.

Sources:

Soundway Records — Dancing Time: The Best of Eastern Nigeria's Afro Rock Exponents 1973-77.

Soundway Records — The Funkees artist profile and discography.

The Guardian — Lighting up Lagos: the stars of 1970s Nigerian rock music.

Exclaim! — review of Dancing Time.

Nigerian Music Digital Archive — The Funkees historical profile.

Photographs: The images above include an archival photograph of The Funkees and original/vintage album artwork. The Now I'm a Man cover dates from the band's 1970s recording period, while Dancing Time is a later archival compilation using historical Funkees imagery.



There is a difference between putting on clothes and putting an outfit together.

You can have a beautiful wardrobe filled with lovely clothes and still miss the mark when it comes to looking well put-together. The difference often lies in how you style what you wear.

Wearing is simply putting on clothes that fit, suit the occasion and make you feel comfortable. Styling, however, goes a step further. It is the intentional art of putting different elements together to create a polished and harmonious look.

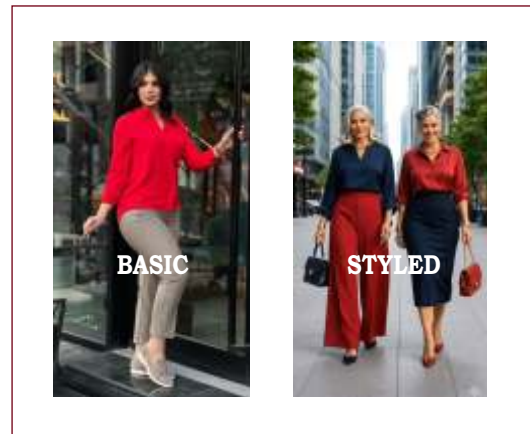
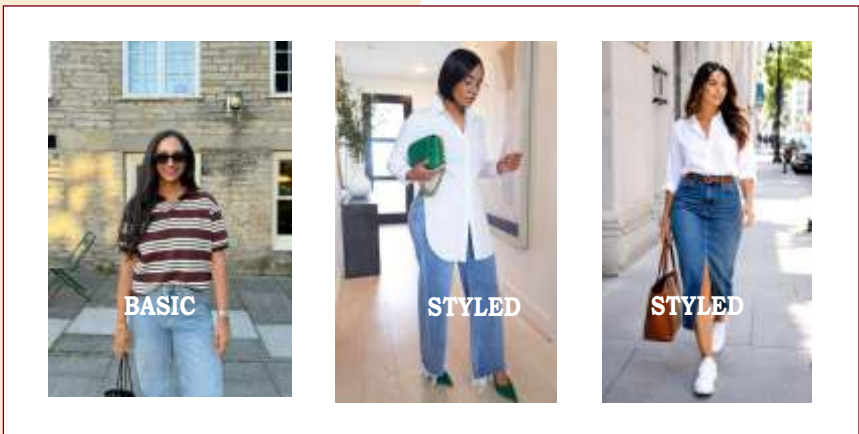
Styling involves paying attention to **three key things**:

- 1. Intentionality:**
Every element of your outfit should have a purpose. From your choice of colours and accessories to your shoes, bag and hairstyle, nothing should look like an afterthought.
- 2. Coordination:**
Good styling is about making the different pieces of an outfit work together. Your clothes, jewellery, shoes, handbag, hairstyle and even makeup should complement one another rather than compete for attention.
- 3. Confidence:**
The way you carry yourself completes the outfit. A well-styled look should not only look good; it should make you feel confident, comfortable and appropriately dressed for the occasion.

For instance, wearing a simple black dress is one thing. Styling it with elegant jewellery, the right shoes, a beautiful handbag and a complementary hairstyle transforms it into a complete and intentional look.

The bottom line? You don't need an expensive wardrobe to look stylish. You need the eye to know what works together—and the confidence to wear it well.

Because fashion is not just about what you wear; it is about how you put it all together.



How To Know A TOXIC RELATIONSHIP & What To Do

By Sandra Chibuike

The wrong relationship doesn't just break your heart—it slowly steals your peace, confidence, and sense of identity.



Love is one of life's greatest gifts. At its best, it offers security, companionship, encouragement, and a safe place to grow. Yet not every relationship that begins with affection remains healthy. Some gradually become emotionally draining, mentally exhausting, and even physically dangerous. Sadly, many people don't recognize the warning signs until they have been deeply hurt.

The truth is that toxicity rarely appears overnight. It often starts subtly—with controlling behavior disguised as concern, criticism disguised as honesty, or manipulation disguised as love. Before long, what once felt comforting becomes suffocating.

Understanding the signs of a toxic relationship is not about becoming suspicious of everyone you love. It is about protecting your emotional well-being and making wise relationship choices.

What Is a Toxic Relationship?

A toxic relationship is one that consistently damages your emotional, mental, spiritual, or physical well-being. Instead of inspiring growth, mutual respect, and peace, it is characterized by unhealthy patterns such as manipulation, disrespect, fear, control, dishonesty, or abuse.

Every couple experiences disagreements. However, healthy couples resolve conflicts with love and respect, while toxic relationships repeat harmful patterns without genuine change.

Warning Signs of a Toxic Relationship

1. You Are Constantly Criticized

Healthy partners correct with kindness and encouragement. Toxic partners regularly make you feel inadequate by criticizing your appearance, personality, dreams, achievements, or intelligence. Over time, this erodes your confidence.

2. Respect Is Missing

Love cannot flourish where respect is absent. If your opinions are ignored, your boundaries are violated, or your partner frequently embarrasses or insults you, the relationship is unhealthy.

3. Everything Must Go Their Way

A toxic partner often wants control over your friendships, clothing, finances, career, social media, or daily decisions. They may call it "protecting you," but genuine love does not seek to dominate.

4. You Live in Fear of Their Reactions

Do you carefully choose your words because you're afraid of triggering anger, insults, or emotional withdrawal? Constant anxiety is not a sign of a healthy relationship.

5. Manipulation Has Become Normal

Manipulation may include guilt-tripping, emotional blackmail, silent treatment, gaslighting, or making you feel responsible for every problem. These behaviors gradually rob you of your confidence and clarity.

6. Trust Has Been Replaced by Suspicion

Excessive jealousy, constant accusations, checking your phone without permission, or monitoring your movements are not signs of deep love. They are signs of insecurity and unhealthy control.

7. The Relationship Is Emotionally One-Sided

You are always apologizing, always forgiving, always sacrificing, and always trying to fix things while the other person refuses to take responsibility.

Healthy relationships require equal commitment.

8. You Are Becoming Isolated

One of the most common characteristics of toxic relationships is isolation. Your partner discourages

relationships with family, friends, mentors, or anyone who could offer support or wise counsel.

9. You No Longer Recognize Yourself

Perhaps the strongest warning sign is losing yourself. If you've become constantly anxious, unhappy, fearful, or emotionally exhausted, it's time to ask whether the relationship is helping you grow or slowly destroying your peace.

Why Do People Stay?

Leaving a toxic relationship is often much harder than outsiders imagine. Many people remain because they:

- Hope their partner will eventually change.
- Fear loneliness.
- Feel financially dependent.
- Have low self-esteem.
- Worry about society's opinions.
- Are emotionally attached to the memories of how the relationship began.

These reasons are understandable—but they should never become excuses for accepting ongoing mistreatment.

What Should You Do?

Accept Reality

Don't minimize repeated unhealthy behavior or excuse it because of love. Love should never require you to ignore abuse.

Have an Honest Conversation

Where it is safe to do so, calmly communicate your concerns. A healthy partner accepts responsibility and is willing to grow.

Set Clear Boundaries

Boundaries are not walls that push people away. They are healthy limits that protect your dignity, peace, and emotional health.

Seek Wise Counsel

Speak with trusted family members, mature friends, pastors, mentors, or professional counselors. Wise counsel often helps us see what emotions hide.

Prioritize Your Safety

If the relationship involves physical violence, threats, or severe emotional abuse, your safety comes first. Seek help immediately and remove yourself from danger.

Know When to Let Go

Not every relationship is meant to last, especially premarital relationships. If someone continually refuses to change despite repeated opportunities, walking away may be the wisest decision you ever make.

Can Toxic Relationships Be Healed?

Yes, but only when both individuals genuinely acknowledge the problem, accept responsibility, and consistently work toward change. A relationship cannot become healthy if only one person is committed to healing. Remember, promises without changed behavior are merely words.

Finally, a healthy relationship should make you feel valued, respected, safe, and inspired to become a better person. While no relationship is perfect, love should never leave you feeling worthless, fearful, or trapped.

Never mistake control for commitment, manipulation for affection, or suffering for proof of love.

Protect your peace. Guard your heart. Choose relationships that reflect mutual respect, kindness, honesty, and genuine care.

Because the healthiest love doesn't imprison you—it helps you flourish.

"Words to Remember"

The right person will never ask/make you to sacrifice your dignity in order to keep their love.



Cuisine

By Sandra Chibuike

A Delicious Twist On A Familiar Favourite

Yam and egg is a much-loved combination that has found its way into many Nigerian homes. It is simple, filling, affordable, and delicious. But who says you have to prepare it the usual way?

With a little creativity, familiar ingredients can be transformed into something completely different. This edition brings you a delightful twist on the classic yam and egg combination—**BAKED YAM AND EGG SAUCE**.

Instead of serving fried yam with egg sauce separately, this recipe brings everything together in one delicious, colourful, and flavour-packed dish. With tender beef strips, fresh vegetables, golden yam cubes, and seasoned eggs, every bite offers a beautiful blend of flavours and textures.

So, if you're looking for a creative way to make an everyday meal more exciting, this recipe is definitely worth trying. Get your ingredients ready and let's create something delicious!

METHOD

Step 1: Prepare the vegetables

Wash and cut the bell peppers, onions, and carrots into strips. Set them aside.

Step 2: Prepare the yam

Cut and peel the yam, then cut it into small cubes.

Step 3: Wash the yam.

Place the yam cubes in a bowl of water, wash thoroughly, and set aside until you are ready to fry.

Step 4: Fry the yam.

Heat some vegetable oil in a pan. Fry the yam cubes until they are golden brown. Scoop them out and set aside.

Step 5: Stir-fry the beef.

In another pan, add a little vegetable oil or butter. Add the beef strips, habanero

pepper, and seasoning to taste. Stir-fry until the beef turns light brown and is properly cooked.

Step 6: Add the vegetables.

Add the carrots, green beans, and yellow corn. Stir and cover to cook for about 3 minutes. Then add the bell peppers and adjust the seasoning to your taste. Stir well and remove from the heat.

Step 7: Prepare the eggs.

Crack the eggs into a bowl. Add a little salt and whisk until fully combined.

Step 8: Combine the ingredients.

In a large bowl, combine the whisked eggs, cooked vegetables, beef, and fried yam. Stir gently until all the ingredients

INGREDIENTS

- Yam
- Eggs
- Bell peppers
- Carrots
- Green beans
- Yellow corn
- Habanero peppers
- Beef strips
- Seasoning cubes/powder
- Spices of your choice
- Vegetable oil or butter
- Salt

Step 9: Bake.

Grease your baking dishes or plates lightly with oil to make removal easier. Fill them with the yam and egg mixture. Place the dishes in an oven pan and add a little water to the pan to help keep the dish moist while baking.

Bake at 350°F (about 175°C) for approximately 25 minutes, or until the egg is fully set and the top is lightly golden.

Step 10: Ready to serve!

After about 25 minutes, your delicious Baked Yam and Egg Sauce should be ready to enjoy!

Step 11: Serve and enjoy.

Serve warm with a chilled glass of juice or any drink of your choice.



Good food is not always about having expensive or unusual ingredients. Sometimes, it is simply about looking at the ingredients you already have and finding a creative way to use them.

So, the next time you have yam and eggs at home, don't be afraid to try something different. Add some colourful vegetables, a little creativity, and a touch of love—and you may just turn an ordinary meal into a family favourite.

Happy cooking, and enjoy every delicious bite!



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