THE SOLUTION WEEKLY BULLETIN

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ANAMBRA NEWS AT A GLANCE





DECADES AFTER: TAPS RUN AGAIN IN ANAMBRA

ByTony Mbeki/Azuka Offor

The story of water infrastructure in Anambra is one of both promise and setbacks. As far back as 1983, former Governor Jim Nwobodo laid the foundation for a functional water system in Onitsha with the support of the World Bank. Yet, the vision faded over the years, leaving the waterworks facility to decay into an eyesore, reminiscent of the failed promises in Charles Dickens's Bleak House, where the stagnation of the legal system reflects the broader malaise of societal neglect.

Other efforts, such as the gigantic storage tanks and boreholes constructed at Aroma Junction and Udoka Housing Estate Awka and the 20,000 cubic meters tank, the biggest in the entire southern of the country located at Terminal Reservoir Army Baracks, Onitsha over some decades. ago, failed to deliver lasting solutions. Residents had grown disillusioned with government projects that fell short, reluctant to pay



Engr. Julius Mmelikam Chukwuemeka
Commissioner for Power and Water Resources

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QUICK FACTS

Governor Charles Chukwuma Soludo @The Platform 2024
He walked The Talk.

- Free Education
- Free Antenatal
- Free Seedlings
- Free 1Youth 2Skills Empowerment Scheme
- Employment of 8115 Teachers
- Employment of 1000+ Doctors, Nurses and Health Professionals
- Empowerment of more than 20,000 Youths through Solution Innovation District.

WHAT IS SOLUDO DOING???

HEALTHCARE DELIVERY

- New General Hospital At Oroma Etiti Anambra West LGA
- New General Hospital in Enugu Otu Aguleri Anambra East LGA
- New Specialist Hospital At Fegge, Onitsha South LGA
- New General Hospital At Anaku Ayamelum LGA
- New General Hospital in Okpoko Ogbaru LGA
- Completely Revamped/Renovated Umueri General Hospital Anambra East LGA
- Completely Revamped/Renovated Ekwulobia General Hospital, Aguata LGA
- Completely Revamped/Renovated Enugwu Ukwu General Hospital Njikoka LGA

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for services that seemed perpetually delayed, echoing the sentiments found in the works of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, who often depicted the futility of hope in the face of bureaucratic inertia.

Governor Soludo, however, has shifted the narrative. The water supply has been dramatically revitalised by rehabilitating five large urban waterworks in key locations. In Awka, Otuocha, and Onitsha, the restored facilities now serve communities through multiple fetching points.

The waterworks in Nnewi and Awkuzu are undergoing test runs, with promises of fully operational pipelines soon. Plans are also in place to complete hundreds of kilometres of water reticulation, ensuring that homes will soon receive steady water directly from the state's network. This transformation recalls the revitalisation efforts seen in post-war cities like Berlin, where strategic planning turned ruins into thriving urban spaces.

However, Governor Chukwuma Soludo's administration has successfully rehabilitated and handed over solar-powered boreholes and toilet facilities to communities and schools in Anambra State, empowering them to manage these vital water projects. This initiative is part of Soludo's campaign promise to provide clean and portable water for the people of Anambra. The Ministry of Power and Water Resources has played a crucial role in this endeavour, demonstrating the government's commitment to improving the lives of its citizens.

The ongoing rehabilitation and reactivation of the non-functional boreholes project has benefitted several towns and schools in Anambra State. Some of the beneficiaries include:

- Community Secondary School, Isuaniocha
- Ojoko Primary School, Nawfia
- Christ the King Primary School, Obeledu
- Uruolu village water project, Akwaeze
- Umuru Ebenator Nnobi
- Primary Healthcare, Oraifite
- Obuotu water scheme, Ezira community

Others were: Atani and Ossomala community in Ogbaru LGA, Nnewi and Amichi community, Oba town in Idemili South LGA, Umuibubu village Akwa-ukwu, Hope Raising Primary School, Oroma-etiti, Ogbuikwelle community Ogbu Abatete, Obinabo Nkologwu town, Isu Primary School, Oba, Community Secondary School Umunachi, Okpoko Primary School 2 with water facilities, Okpoko Community School 5&6, Otumoye Primary School with toilet facilities, Awkuzu Civic Centre, Ukpor High School Ukpor, among others.

The resuscitation of the various water schemes in Anambra State has made significant strides in fulfilling Governor Soludo's promise to provide regular water supply to residents, marketers, and households in Anambra State.

Recall that the Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC) in November 2023 approved the award of contracts for the massive statewide reactivation and rehabilitation of 67 borehole water schemes (phase 1) in Anambra State.

The total contract sum is N1,204,200,118 (one billion, two hundred and four million, two hundred thousand, one hundred and eighteen naira) only, and the contract was awarded under the PPCP model of Soludo's administration.



During the handover ceremony, the Commissioner for Power and Water Resources, Engr. Julius Chukwuemeka

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ANAMBRA YOUTHS TO BENEFIT FROM UNDP, MASTERCARD EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME



By Nwokedi Nwanneka A. and Maureen Agbala

In a ground-breaking initiative, the MasterCard Foundation and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched "Young Africa Innovates," a four-day training for Anambra youths aged 18-35. The program, held at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, aimed to strengthen innovation hubs, support young innovators, and drive socio-economic development.

Chiwetalu Okosi, UNDP focal person for the South East, emphasised the program's inclusive ethos, providing technical support to test, validate, and scale innovative solutions. Anambra was chosen as the pilot state for the South East due to its entrepreneurial spirit.

Out of 3,000 applicants, 300 youths were selected for the training, which focused on commerce and entrepreneurship.

Beneficiaries praised the initiative.



MULTI RADIO STATION WEEKLY PROGRAMME "ASK THE COMMISSIONER" KICKS-OFF.

By Rose Oranye and Chinyere Ogbuagu

The Ministry of Informations' Weekly Radio Progam, "Ask the Commissioner" took off Tuesday, 22nd October, 2024 at ABS Station, Awka with the aim of eliciting information from various Commissioners on the activities and achievement of government.

Anambra Commissioner for Information, Dr. Law Mefor during the interview Spoke of his determination to reform the information machinery of the ministry leaving no stone unturned.

Mefor said "putting the prerequisite structures in place to ensure we have the tools to work, have the right manpower. We have the numbers and we are retraining to be sure the manpower is well equipped in terms of modern tools of strategic communication.

We have also introduced a lot of them in the ministry to ensure that we reach out to Ndi Anambra, not just Ndi Anambra, ndi Igbo and Nigerians at large. We have introduced a weekly News Bulletin summarizing the activities of the governor and the activities of the ministries, departments and agencies to reach out to Ndi Anambra even in diaspora. This came out last Friday, the maiden edition. It reverberated, resonated with people because we got feedback from far and near".

The weekly Radio Program is a novel platform where commissioners of various Ministries and Heads of Agencies will take turns to tell Ndi Anambra about the achievements, ongoing projects, policies and programs and their benefits as well as filed questions and receive feedbacks.

Recall that on Monday, September, 30, 2024, Anambra Commissioner for Information held a meeting with the Head of Service (HOS) and Permanent Secretaries in Anambra State Civil Service to sensitize them on the weekly radio programme.

2024 OFALA FESTIVAL: ONITSHA MONARCH BEMOANS DEVASTATING IMPACT OF NIGERIA'S ECONOMY, INSECURITY



By Juliana Nwachukwu/Ngozi Okoli/Anakor Nkiru

The Obi of Onitsha, Igwe Alfred Nnaemeka Achebe, expressed deep concern over the devastating impact of the nation's economy and insecurity last Friday.

Achebe, in his 2024 Ofala message tagged "Courage Perseverance, Self-Reliance," which he translated into the Igbo language as "Onye kwe, Chi'e ekwe," said the combined effects of the duo of poor economy and insecurity are the spiralling ride in the cost of living, business closures, loss of employment, a general feeling of hopelessness, and a lack of trust in the government.

He therefore called on President Ahmed Bola Tinubu to consider alternative views and urgently convene a non-partisan national economic and security summit to forge a collective way forward for the country.

SOLUTION FUNCITY WILL OPEN ITS DOORS TO NDI ANAMBRA BY DECEMBER - ENGR. OKOMA, WORKS COMMISSIONER

Chidiebele Obika | I-Witness News

The Anambra State Commissioner for Works, Engineer Ifeanyi Okoma, has revealed that solution funcity, Awka, will be opened to the people by December this year.

He made the announcement on Friday when he spoke to I-Witness Media Office members at the construction site at the Kwata area in Awka. Okoma informed that the vision of the governor, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, was to build projects that would transform the state into a destination lounge as opposed to its previous status as a departure lounge.

He stated that the centre has a country club, family area, casinos, lawn tennis court, and others that would make families come, relax, and enjoy the Awka city. Other facilities include a splash pool, island pool, push pool, mini Olympic-sized swimming pool, children's pool, and others.



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noted that power was one of the major reasons the projects could not stand under the previous administration, which necessitated Soludo's administration to design a new system of operation by providing three power sources in each water project to align with the governor's green energy policy.

The new water system combines solar energy, EEDC power, and diesel as a last resort, ensuring a reliable water supply. This innovative approach reduces operational costs and enhances overall efficiency.

Engr. Chukwuma urged benefiting schools and communities to take an active role in safeguarding and protecting the facilities, ensuring their continued operation, and promised that communities that have not benefitted in this phase will soon smile with others as Governor Soludo swore to end the problem of water in Anambra State.

PHOTO SPEAKS













SOLUTION FUNCITY









GOVERNOR SOLUDO HAS TURNED ANAMBRA STATE TO HUGE CONSTRUCTION SITE





HEALTHY LIVING WITH NONYE SOLUDO









SOLUTION INNOVATION DISTRICT (SID) GOES GLOBAL, INDUCTED INTO IASP AT 41ST WORLD CONFERENCE IN KENYA







ANSAA ORGANISES SECOND EDITON OF WHITE CANE CAMPAIGN IN ONITSHA



YOUTH COMMISSIONER INSPECTS AGUATA TRAINING CENTRES

By Ifeoma Aniagbado

The Commissioner for Youth Development, Mr. Patrick Agha Mba on October 17, inspected various training centers in Aguata LGA of the ongoing second phase of 1 Youth 2 Skills program.

The centers inspected are located at Ekwuluobia, Igboukwu, Isuofia, Umuchu, Ikenga, and Oraeri communities.

Mr. Agha Mba who addressed the trainees at the various centers said that the program is to equip youth with vital vocational and agricultural skills as well as promote self reliance and economic development in the state.

He pointed out that the objectives of the training involve agricultural skills under the youth agricultural scheme called YATAS which aligns with Gov. Chukwuma Soludo's farm to feed campaign to mobilize youth into agriculture in order to address both unemployment and food insecurity in the state.



MAYOR NKWOKA KEYS INTO SECURITY STRIDES OF SOLUDO'S ADMINISTRATION

By Judith Oraeki-Anigbogu/Nkeiruka Okongwu

In line with the Anambra State Governor's strides to boost security in the state, Idemili North LGA Mayor, Stanley Nkwoka has priotised security his watchword.

The Chairman made this assertion during the strategic meeting with the security personnel in Idemili North Council, emphasizing on their training and retraining, saying that no security agent goes to a battle without a tested or faulty rifles.

He, therefore, promised to look seriously into their welfare to align with the Gov. Chukwuma Soludo's security feat of secure, liveable and prosperous homeland.

"You all will be enrolled into the Anambra State Health Insurance Agency Scheme (ASHIA). I will provide insurance cover, put smiles on your faces and seeing you all discharge your duties effectively and efficiently," he promised.

KAOLIN PROCESSING PLANT: PROF. OFOEGBU ASSURES SPEEDY DELIVERY



By Adaobi Nsofor

Work is seriously ongoing at the Kaolin Processing Plant, Ukpor as the Managing Director/ CEO of Anambra State Solid Minerals Development Company, Prof. Charles O. Ofoegbu has assured that he will deliver the job within the stipulated time frame.

Prof. Ofoegbu gave the assurance during his visit to the site to ascertain the progress of the work. He noted that a new mill that would be exported from overseas is going to be installed, which is going to be of a bigger capacity and the rate of production will be high, while the old mill and old plants would be refurbished.

''The equipment have all been assembled, borehole facilities has been installed for the processing plant, the weighing bag for the kaolin deposits has been printed, the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) will certify the weight, we stack and we are ready to go," he said.

It would be noted that the project kicked off following the discovery of Kaolin deposits in Umunuko, Ukpor community in Nnewi South Local Government Area of Anambra State.



AANFE VISITS AWKA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, DONATES INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS TO INMATES

By Ebele Iyke Odili

In a bid to promote literacy and learning opportunities for all, regardless of background or circumstances, the Agency for Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-Formal Education (AANFE) visited Awka, the state capital Correctional Center on Tuesday, and donated various instructional materials to support the rehabilitation and educational programs for inmates.

Presenting the items to the facility officials, AANFE Director, Mrs. Ebele Ononiuhu, noted that education is a powerful tool for personal growth and development, which has a transformative effect on the lives of inmates. "We are therefore honored to support the educational efforts of the correctional centers and to provide these resources to inmates," she said.

The donated materials included textbooks, exercise books, whiteboards, markers, and other items to facilitate teaching and learning process.

The Deputy Controller Correctional (DCC), Awka, Barr. Raymond Okonkwo expressed gratitude to AANFE and the Anambra State Government for the donation and promised that the items would be utilized effectively. He also appealed to the government to approve the center's request for secondary education, which would enable the center to provide more comprehensive educational programs for its inmates.

ANAMBRA'S NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAWS: SOLUDO CLARIFIES ALIGNMENT WITH SUPREME COURT RULING



By Ifeyinwa Ogwo

Anambra State Governor, Prof Charles Soludo, has stated that the new laws enacted by the Anambra House of Assembly on local government matters are in line with the Supreme Court judgement which did not nullify section 7 of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria that empowers each state through its House of Assembly to make laws for the establishment, structure, composition, finance, and functions of the local government.

The laws are the Anambra State Economic Planning and Development Law, 2024 and the Anambra State Local Government Administration Law, 2024.

The governor said this in his speech on "Nigeria's Evolving Federalism and Search for Sustainable Local Government Administration."

He mentioned that the two legislations passed by the progressive Anambra House of Assembly seek to achieve three objectives: consistency with the constitution and judgement of the Supreme Court; enhanced transparency and productive collaboration and promotion of sustainable finance, democracy and development at the local government.

Governor Soludo further explained that the laws ensure that the state can function in a cohesively planned, transparent and sustainable manner to maximize the security and welfare of the citizens, stressing that they constitute a very smart solution to a possible systemic threat.



ANAMBRA GOVERNMENT TO PARTNER WHO, ROCHE WEST AFRICA IN BREAST, CERVICAL CANCER DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT

By Chukwudi Nwauba

The Anambra State Government, through the State Ministry of Health, has partnered with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Roche West Africa in breast and cervical cancer diagnosis and treatment in the state.

The Commissioner for Health, Dr. Afam Obidike, said that the partnership would help reduce the high cost of diagnosis and treatment of breast and cervical cancer patients across the state.

Dr Obidike noted that since the inception of Gov. Chukwuma Soludo's administration, the state, in partnership with WHO, the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), has been offering a free screening of cervical cancer, of which the wife of the governor, Dr Mrs Nonye Soludo, is the Cervical Cancer Champion Ambassador in the state.



ANAMBRA ASSEMBLY CLERK UGHENU EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF TEAMWORK, COMMITMENT

By Chizoba Okeke

The new Clerk of Anambra State House of Assembly, Mr. Anthony Ughenu has urged staff of the institution to put in their best in order to achieve the aims and objectives.

Mr. Ughenu while addressing the House of Assembly staff, called for synergy, dedication and unity of purpose.

According to the Clerk, "this meeting is for us to introduce ourselves and to be mindful of protocols and the traditions because responsibilities are all intertwined to make our job better".

In there separate remarks, the acting deputy clerk, Mrs Cynthia Idemobi, and the head of admin, Mrs Uzoh urged the staff to dress decent and modest to work.



INDUSTRY COMMISSIONER RATES ANAMBRA INDEGENES HIGH IN BUSINESS PROWESS

By Amaka Isikala

Anambra State Commissioner for Industry, Mr. Christian Udechukwu has rated the people of the state as the most resilient individuals in the Southern states of Nigeria.

He said that the people's indefatigable prowess and ease in doing business at home and in the diaspora ranks highest and unbeatable.

Mr. Udechukwu made these assertion while commending the infrastructural and developmental abilities of the people of the state in while giving his open remarks in a sensitization programme in Awka themed, "Accelerating Made-in Anambra By Developing and Promoting Non-Oil Export In the State".

The commissioner expressed happiness over the state's consistence and championship abilities in infrastructural acquisitions and development in the Nigeria business space, commending the state of winning an award at SMEDAN event with international partners at the Presidential Villa where the state emerged the best and the most friendly SME state in the Southeast.

Some processed food items by some Anambra producers ranging from palm oil, dry pap, tumeric, beans flour, yam flour, dried oyster, kuli kuli and other spices were on display at the event.

ONITSHA AREA COMMAND GETS FACELIFT, NEW COMMANDER ISSUES WARNING TO CRIMINALS

By Juliana Nwachukwu

The Onitsha Police Area Command in Anambra State has undergone significant transformations since Mr. Nzota Chidi, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), took office two weeks ago as the Area Commander, issuing a stern warning to criminals in the commercial hub of the Southeast, advising them to vacate the area or face severe consequences.

The Area Commander with the support of Divisional Police Officer (DPO) Tina Okeke, Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP), the Inland Town Police Station has achieved notable successes. Within just 10 days of assuming command, Mr. Chidi's team neutralized two kidnappers, apprehended one, and injured another.

Mr. Chidi reaffirmed his commitment to maintaining law and order in Onitsha and its surroundings, vowing not to tolerate criminal activities. His resolute stance and prompt actions have sent a strong message to criminals, ensuring a safer environment for the community.

He pleaded to residents to always come up with information that will lead to arresting criminals, assuring of the protection of the identity of such information.



MONDAY SIT - AT - HOME: SOLUDO INSPECTS OBA PHARMACEUTICAL HUB MARKET

By Uzo Ugwunze

As part of his routine monitoring to ensure that Ndi Anambra goes about their normal business activities on Mondays, Governor Chukwuma Soludo was at Oba, Idemili South Local Government Area (ISLGA) to inspect the level of work ongoing at the Pharmaceutical Hub International Market, Oba.

Gov Soludo during the inspection tasked the contractor handling the project at the new Pharmaceutical Hub International Market, Oba to speed up the pace of work.

He further encouraged the residents of Idemili South to completely ignore the usual phobia associated with Monday sit-at-home order by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).

He urged them not to be afraid of being attacked by hoodlums who perpetrate atrocities on the guise of sympathizing for the release of the IPOB leader because security joint patrol teams were always on ground.

Moreso, at Afor Nnobi, there was vehicular movements and several shops and petrol filling stations were on with a beehive of activities that Monday.The residents and traders who were overwhelmed by the presence of His Excellency were hailing him for good governance in the state.

Commending Gov Soludo for the construction of the New Pharmaceutical Hub International market, the Chairman of ISLGA, Mrs Amaka Oba said that Governor Soludo led administration was poised towards taking the state to greater heights, adding that Idemili South has not been left out in the Solution Agenda of Mr Governor.