GOVERNMENT OF ANAMBRA STATE NIGERIA

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ANAMBRA NEWS AT A GLANCE





SOLUDO'S INDELIBLE FOOTPRINTS IN HEALTHCARE

By Chukwudi Nwauba

In just 22 months, Governor Charles Chukwuma Soludo has made significant strides in the healthcare sector of Anambra State, establishing a legacy of transformative accomplishments. His administration emphasises holistic development through key pillars, including security, infrastructure, economic transformation, and human capital development.



DR. AFAM OBIDIKE
Commissioner for Health

One of Soludo's notable achievements is the recruitment of over 1,000 skilled medical personnel, addressing the chronic understaffing in government hospitals and enhancing the operational capacity of healthcare facilities across the state.

A landmark initiative was the first maternal mortality review meeting held at the State Ministry of Health. This gathering of medical experts led to crucial recommendations, including the establishment of blood banks and the provision of anti-shock garments for pregnant women. Responding to these recommendations, Soludo approved the distribution of free anti-shock garments across both private and public hospitals, while blood banks have been set up in all three senatorial zones.

His administration has also introduced free antenatal and delivery services, significantly improving maternal health and contributing to Anambra being the second state with the lowest infant mortality rate in Nigeria.

Other key initiatives include the

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SOLUDO'S HEALTHCARE REVOLUTION: A NEW DAWN FOR ANAMBRA

Contd. from page 1



establishment of the first state-owned eye care centre in Nise, the ongoing construction of a trauma centre at Amaku, and the introduction of a telemedicine hub, which extends services to 21 local governments.

The construction of five new general hospitals, alongside the renovation and equipping of existing facilities in Umueri, Ekwulobia, and Enugu-Ukwu, underscores his commitment to improving healthcare infrastructure. Moreover, advanced dental units and the renovation of primary healthcare centres across the state are ongoing.

Soludo's administration has also prioritised women's health by establishing 30 cervical cancer screening centers. The launch of the State Emergency Medical Services and Ambulance Systems 112 (SEMAS) ensures timely medical responses in emergencies. A state-of-the-art drug quality control lab has been inaugurated at COOUTH, Amaku, which enhances pharmaceutical safety.

Additionally, the administration has established two medical oxygen production plants and an endoscopy unit at general hospitals in Onitsha and Enugwu-Ukwu, reflecting a commitment to self-sufficiency in medical supplies. The deployment of haematology analysers in general hospitals further emphasises advanced medical diagnostics. Partnerships with UNICEF and the Global Fund have modernised the Central Medical Drug Distribution Centre, ensuring a reliable supply of medicines.

Governor Soludo's proactive and compassionate approach to healthcare lays the groundwork for a robust system that prioritises public well-being, setting a strong foundation for Anambra's future. His visionary leadership continues to guide the state toward a healthier and more prosperous tomorrow.



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EMPOWERING EDUCATION: TINUBU'S WIFE, NONYE SOLUDO DONATE WRITING MATERIALS TO ANAMBRA SCHOOLS

By Obiageli Nwankwo

The First Lady of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, and Dr. Nonye Soludo, wife of Anambra State Governor, have supported education in the Anambra hinterlands with the provision of writing materials.

This was disclosed by the Commissioner for Education, Anambra State, Prof. Ngozi Chuma-Udeh, during the distribution exercise to state government schools in the Awka North Local Government Area.

In this initial phase, four primary schools in Awka North were among the beneficiaries: Obuno Primary School, Ebenebe; Unity Primary School, Awba Ofemili; Agueke Primary School, Ugbenu; and Community Primary School, Ugbenu.

Addressing the pupils during the event, the Commissioner explained that the materials were donated by the wife of the president, Senator Oluremi Tinubu through her Renewed Hope Initiative, and Dr. Nonye Soludo through the Healthy Living initiative.

Prof. Chuma-Udeh emphasised that the materials aimed at empowering students in rural areas educationally and eliminating the challenge of studying without essential writing resources in these areas. She encouraged the pupils to study diligently to secure a brighter future.

Mrs. Agatha Ajuorah, Headteacher of Obuno Primary School in Ebenebe, expressed gratitude on behalf of the beneficiaries.

The distribution exercise was attended by the Ministry of Education's Permanent Secretary, Dr. Ifeoma Agbaizu, and board members from the Anambra State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB) and Post Primary Schools Service Commission (PPSSC).



SOLUDO TAKES ANAMBRA NEW YAM FESTIVAL TO THE NEXT LEVEL



By Michael Ezenwata

The second edition of the Anambra New Yam Festival recorded tremendous success as Governor Chukwuma Soludo recommended a farm to feed initiative to Anambra indigenes.

In a speech during the event, the governor spoke on the imperatives of farming and the inherent benefits derivable from being a full-time or part-time farmer. He encouraged people to utilise available spaces in their houses and wherever they reside to develop farms to cushion the effect of hunger and a harsh economy.

According to the Chief Executive, farming remains a viable option to make a decent living, and he gave the indication that the festival will get better and better as the years progress.

Governor Soludo reiterated the commitment of his administration towards improving major sectors of the economy, particularly with the new government and governor's lodge in Awka, which will be ready in a matter of weeks, and the dualisation of some major roads to connect the major cities of Awka, Nnewi, Ekwulobia, and others.

He announced a cash award of N3 million (three million naira) to the most proficient yam farmer of the year (Di Ji) from Akwaeze and the sum of N1 million each to the first runner-up, the second runner-up, and other participants who took the fourth and fifth positions, respectively.

The state commissioner for culture, tourism, and entertainment, Comrade Don Onyeji, commended Governor Soludo for making the event a success story. Comrade Onyenji also thanked all the participants, all the distinguished guests that graced the occasion, and urged the people to embrace farming, avail themselves of the tourist attractions in the state, and engage in some entertainments to make life better.

Highpoints of the events were the cutting of new yam, masquerade displays, and cultural dances.

Some dignitaries that graced the occasion included the Commissioner for Information, Dr. Law Mefor, members of the state executive council, traditional rulers from various communities, and mayors from various local government areas, among others.

COMMISSIONER CHUKWUEMEKA, OTHERS BAG AWARDS ON GREEN ENERGY

By Azuka Offor



The Anambra State Commissioner for Power and Water Resources, Engr. Julius Chukwuemeka, Prof. Barth Nnaji, and Mr. Valentine Ozigbo were among those honoured by the Faculty of Engineering, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, for contributions on green energy during the faculty's 2024 International Conference on Sustainable Energy and Smart Agriculture for national development.

Speaking at the conference, Engr. Chukwuemeka noted that Gov. Chukwuma Soludo's love for creating green energy solutions in the state that are eco-friendly and cost-effective has been seen in the conversion of former diesel-powered streetlights to solar systems, the installation of solar systems at the state secretariat, state high courts, all the correctional centres in the state, and 21 local government secretariats, among others, which now serve as alternative sources of power supply, ensuring 24/7 power supply in the areas.

He said that all the water schemes (facilities) being built by the state government have a solar system as their primary source of power, which enabled constant water supply to residents of the state.

Aside from the partnership via MoU between the state government and Enugu Electricity Distribution Company (EEDC) aimed at manufacturing of prepaid meters in the state, Mr. Commissioner noted that the state government is always ready to partner with the engineering faculty to enhance power generation and distribution to Ndi Anambra.

PHOTO SPEAKS





Umueri General Hospital





Enugwu-Ukwu General Hospital





Ekwulobia General Hospital





Distribution of Anti-shock garments by the wife of the governor to Public, Private and Mission Hospitals across the State




Distribution of 3.8 Insecticide Treated Mosquito Net





3 Dental Chairs distributed to the 3 General Hospitals in the State

PHOTO SPEAKS







State Medical Store with Drug Testing Laboratory

Each of the 3 Renovated General Hospitals received standard equipments for Optimal performance







Newly built and equipped General Hospital Okpoko



First Ever General Hospital in Onitsha South LGA







Onitsha Main Market Clinic







First Ever State Eye Care Centre, Nise











Launching of State Ambulance and Emergency Service 112

ANAMBRA LANDS COMMISSIONER AMUCHEAZI URGES LAND OWNERS TO RECERTIFY, REVALIDATE LAND TITLES



By Gab Alokwe, Okeke Josephine Nwando and Amara Obikwelu

The Anambra State Commissioner for Lands, Prof Offornze Amucheazi (SAN) has called on landowners (State and non-State lands) in the state to take advantage of the ongoing recertification and revalidation exercise to update their land title documents.

Prof. Amucheazi made the call at the commencement of the recertification and revalidation exercise of land title documents going on at the ministry's premises in Awka.

The commissioner who re-emphasized that the initiative was aimed at reviewing and updating land records, enhancing plot holder information as well as to upgrade survey records from Nigerian National/Local Origin to Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Coordinates System in line with global best practices.

Recall that the Anambra State Government through the Anambra State Ministry of Lands in Public Notice - PS/ML/2024/CR/156 dated 19th October, 2024, announced 4th November, 2024 as the commencement date for the recertification and revalidation exercise for all land title documents in the state.

ANAMBRA ASSEMBLY COMMENDS SOLUDO FOR EXTENDING FREE EDUCATION POLICY TO SENIOR STUDENTS, PASSES MTEF REPORT

By Chizoba Okeke

Anambra State House of Assembly has passed a resolution commending Governor Chukwuma Soludo for extending free educational policy to Senior Secondary School students in the state public schools.

The resolution was passed following a motion moved by the member representing Aguata Constituency One, Mr Anayo Okpaleke and Chairman House committee on Education.

The Speaker, Mr Somtoo Udeze who presided over plenary read out the resolution and the lawmakers unanimously adopted it through voice vote.

In his submissions, Okpaleke noted that Governor Soludo had earlier granted free education from Nursery, Primary and Junior Secondary Schools (JSS 3) to pupils and students of all State Public Schools and also extended the same to Senior Secondary School Students in Public Schools.

He reiterated that access to quality education equips beneficiaries with the necessary tools to excel and take their destinies into their hand, thereby ensuring effective use of their talents for all round development and progress.

He further explained the governor's free education policy has now opened windows of opportunities as evidenced by the upsurge in school enrolment of pupils and students in the state public schools, breaking the cycle of social and economic barriers as well as poverty.

In support of the motion, the member representing Aguata Constituency Two, Chief Tony Muobike, his Ogbaru Constituency One counterpart, Noble Igwe and the Deputy Majority Leader, Dr. Jude Akpua, expressed their approval of the governor's initiative, saying it has brought positive revolution to the state

Similarly, the House passed the report of the House Committee on Finance and Appropriation on the 2025-2027 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), Economic and Fiscal Update (EFU), Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP) and Budget Policy Statement (BPS) document.

The documents outline the state's fiscal plans, economic outlook, and budgetary goals for the next three years and sets a strategic foundation for sustainable growth and responsible budgeting.



Governor Soludo's Wife Nonye Visits Flood-Displaced Persons in Ogbaru



By Ikwuanusi Azuka/ Okeke Anthonia Chioma

The wife of the Anambra State Governor, Dr Mrs Nonye Soludo has visited the flood displaced persons' camp at Odekpe Central School in Ogbaru LGA.

Addressing the flood victims which included; men, women and children, the governor's wife sympathized with them on the extent of damage caused by the flood disaster, assured them of positive response from the state government.

She emphasized on the importance of maintaining good cleanliness and healthy living in the camp.

While donating some food items, disinfectants, toiletries and cash to the flood victims, Mrs. Soludo pleaded with the good spirited individuals and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to come to the aid of those affected by flood in the state.

The Regional Representative, World Health Organization (WHO), Dr Chukwumuanya Igbokwe promised to set up mobile clinic in the camp, in order to give the victims proper medical care/ attention. He thanked the Governor of Anambra State, Prof. Chukwuma Charles Soludo for his fatherly love to Ndi Anambra.

The Deputy Mayor of Ogbaru Local Government Area, Mr Kenneth Akuegbe expressed his heart felt gratitude to the governor. He also commended the effort of the wife of the state government in supporting the helpless individuals.

He further pleaded for the provision of mattresses and blankets to keep the victims safe from sicknesses.

AGRO INVESTMENT: ANAMBRA GOVERNMENT PARTNERS AFDB TO FUND $100MILLION PROJECTS



By Chukwuka Ugokwe

The Anambra State Government in collaboration with African Development Bank (AFDB) is set to deliver intervention projects worth $100Million in the agricultural /industrial sectors across the state.

The projects comprising of Agricultural Transformation Centres and Special Agro Processing Zone are aimed to unlock the huge agricultural potentials in production of rice, sorghum, maize, yam among others.

The Managing Director, Anambra State Investment Promotion and Protection Agency (ANSIPPA), Mr Mark Okoye, made the disclosure during an engagement meeting with a delegation from African Development Bank in his office.

According to him, the state government decided to adopt a coordinated approach to collaborating with the bank as well as private sector led by Arise and Coscharis Groups to implement the project.

While illustrating vital components of the Projects master plan including the Anambra Mixed Use Industrial City (AMIC),he expressed hope that the strategic partnership and commitment would solve problems, open up opportunities and boost the state's economic growth.

He used the occasion to invite the bank to the launch of 2nd Anambra Investment Summit slated to hold on Nov. 14, 2024 at the International Conference Centre, Awka.

The ANSIPPA Boss noted that the event would feature expression of interest on industrial infrastructure, pointing out that over 800 investors had registered online to participate.

Earlier, the Chief Agro-Industry Officer, African Development Bank, Mr Chukwuma Ezedinma, said that the state was selected for the project based on a very strong private sector interest and good feasibility study.

He added that they were in the state to discuss in details what was presented in the feasibility study and to confirm details concerning the project implementing unit, steering committee and technical committee.

"We also want to know details about the Resettlement Action Plan, Stakeholders Engagement Plan and Livelihood Restoration Plan.

A Member of the team who doubles as the Senior Rural Infrastructural Engineer, AFDB, Mr Bashir Ibrahim Gaya, emphasized the pivotal role of the bank in fostering sustainable growth and affirmed its commitment to also offer technical assistance.

The state government was represented by the Commissioners for Agriculture, Dr Forster Ihejiofor, Commissioner For Industry, Mr Christian Udechukwu, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Mrs Ifeyinwa Uzoka, while Mr Chinedu Obieri represented Coscharis Group.

ANAMBRA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MARKS THREE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

By George Ewulum

The Anambra State International Cargo Airport Umueri will mark three years on the 7th of December 2024.

The Managing Director, Mr. Martin Emeka Nwafor, who disclosed this in his office during an exclusive interview, said that the state government and the airport management authorities have scheduled an official anniversary ceremony to mark the occasion and to make it memorable.

The director explained that Anambra Airport has the second longest runway after Murtala Mohammed International Airport in Lagos.

"Aviation is the safest mode of transportation now," the managing director pointed out. He urged Ndi Anambra to use the airport always, as it has state-of-the-art facilities apart from having world-best architectural design.

Mr. Nwafor applauded the efforts of Governor Soludo, who, according to him, has started giving the airport a new facelift by lightening up the airport environment, decorating with interlocking brickwork, and putting up water-tight security architectural surveillance in place.

RIDERS' SAFETY AWARENESS PROG: INFORMATION COMMISSIONER MEFOR STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF CAUTION



By Uche Kalu

Commissioner for Information, Dr. Law Mefor has praised Governor Chukwuma Soludo's outstanding achievements across all sectors in Anambra State, acknowledging his exceptional performance and urging Ndi Anambra to recognize his efforts. Dr. Mefor highlighted the governor's commitment to security, particularly during the Yuletide season, ensuring the safety of lives and properties.

Dr. Mefor emphasized the importance of safety during a stakeholders meeting on Rider's Safety, organized by the Ministry of Transport in Awka. He commended the Transport Commissioner for setting a positive example in line with Governor Chukwuma Soludo's vision for a solution-driven government.

He stressed that safety should be the top priority, urging tricycle (Keke) and Okada riders to adopt defensive driving practices, exercise patience with other road users, and properly maintain their vehicles to avoid accidents.

Commissioner for Transport, Mrs. Patricia Igwebuike while welcoming stakeholders to the meeting, highlighted the ministry's efforts to leverage technology in overcoming challenges faced by drivers, particularly tricycle and Okada riders, who play a vital role in reaching remote areas. Emphasizing safety, Mrs. Igwebuike urged these riders to prioritize their well-being and that of their passengers.

Mrs. Igwebuike shared insights from her visit to Orumbanasa in Anambra West LGA, where Keke and Okada are the primary modes of transportation, underscoring the significance of these riders in the transportation ecosystem. "By supporting their development and providing resources, the ministry aims to enhance the overall transportation experience,"she noted

Special Adviser to Governor Soludo on Security, Mr. JohnChris Chigbo who announced that the state government has initiated measures to bolster security in the transport sector, stressed the crucial role of Rider's Permits, encouraging all riders to obtain one as a vital security safeguard. "Possessing this permit, riders not only ensure their own safety but also contribute to the overall security of the transportation system," Chigbo stated.

The Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Anambra State Command, Joyce Alexander represented by Mr. Mogbo Oderah, emphasized the importance of utilizing side view mirrors to prevent avoidable road crashes. He attributed the causes of accidents to environmental and human. However, he stressed that human factors are the most prevalent causes of road accidents.

Ambassador Fidelis Nnadi, a renowned consultant on motor-related trade and services, expressed deep concern over the alarming rate of accidents involving keke and okada. He reiterated the crucial importance of safety and security, urging drivers to utilize their side mirrors effectively to prevent accidents and ensure their well-being.

Mr. Chris Okeke, Head of Operations Department, underlined the importance of the Rider's Permit, a security document issued by the Ministry of Transport through the Vehicle Inspection Service (VIS) or Vehicle Inspection Officers (VIO). This permit contains vital information about the owner, protecting them from security harassment.

To ensure safety, Okeke outlined key regulations for tricycle operations which included; two side view mirrors, front and rear headlamps, trafficators and brakelights, warning that no tricycle should install and use roof racks, extra lights, inappropriate horn, cross bars or any other artificial constructions and installations while in operation.

"Every driver must attain 18 years of age to be issued Rider's Permit and the permit will no longer be issued to individuals beyond 70 years of age. Delivery riders are not meant to carry passengers except their box and must wear crash helmet, dress properly with their reflective jacket, company insignia as well as code."

The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from the banking sector, ARS, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), insurance companies, and other relevant organizations.

VISIONARY MILESTONE: ANAMBRA EYE CARE CENTER MARKS 18 MONTHS OF SUCCESS



By Ebele Egoh

The Anambra State Eye Care Centre, a pioneering initiative of the state government in partnership with the Nise community, has recorded remarkable success in its 18-month existence.

As the first specialist eye care and referral centre in the state, it has provided critical eye care services to over 2,500 patients and performed 30 life-changing surgeries.

According to Dr. Ikenna Mbakigwe, Chief Opthamologist, "Our centre offers comprehensive eye care services, diagnosing and treating various eye disorders, including allergic eye disorders, dry eye disease, refractive errors, hypertensive and diabetic eye disorders, glaucoma care, cataract eye surgeries, and ocular surface surgeries.

"The centre boasts a team of two ophthalmologists, one chief optometrist, optometrist interns, nurses, and support staff. However, despite its achievements, the centre faces significant challenges, including a lack of solar energy for constant power supply and water supply, which hinders our operations, he noted.

He emphasised the importance of staff training, particularly ophthalmic nurses, for quality eye care services.

The centre requires high-tech equipment to provide optimal specialist eye care.

He commended the state government's initiative to reduce blindness and visual impairment in the state, appealing for support to equip the centre with high-tech equipment and training for optimal care.

Dr. Mbakigwe pledged the commitment of staff to providing top-notch eye care services, bridging the gap in eye health care in the state.

EMBER MONTHS: ANAMBRA STATE GOVT, FRSC SENSITIZE DRIVERS AGAINST DANGEROUS DRIVING



By Chisom Okpala

A town hall meeting to mark the 2024 Ember Months Campaign flag-off was organised by the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Anambra State Sector Command in Awka.

Gov. Chukwuma Soludo, represented by the State Deputy Governor, Dr. Onyekachukwu Ibezim, noted that it is the duty of the government to protect lives and property in the state, which according to him aligns with the topic of discussion. The governor encouraged passengers to always speak up against any dangerous driving and cautioned drivers on the implications of reckless driving.

"Overspeeding can be fatal, and always remember that speed limits are in place to protect everyone on the road, especially this Christmas season."

He commended FRSC Awka for the efforts toward reducing accidents and maintaining safety on the road, hinting that the massive road infrastructural development witnessed in the state would help ensure a smooth ride around the state this ember months and beyond.

Speaking, the Anambra State FRSC Sector Commander, Mrs. Joyce Alexander, said that this year's theme, "Speak up against dangerous driving: crashes kill more passengers than drivers," is to encourage passengers to always call out drivers as well as report any reckless driving for their own safety.

She emphasised that the command is committed to ensuring safety on roads across the state, stressing that over 1 million lives were lost annually to road accidents globally.

ANAMBRA GOVT PLEDGES ENHANCED WORKING CONDITIONS FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS





By Chisom Okpala

Anambra State Government has reassured its commitment to create enabling environment where professionals in diaspora can look back and invest in the economy of the nation.

Governor Chukwuma Soludo through the state Deputy Governor, Dr. OnyekaChukwu Ibezim made this known during the 11th Induction Ceremony of Medical Grandaunts of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, College of Medicine (COOUCOM), held at the Pathology Auditorium, COOUTH Amaku Awka.

Speaking on the rising quest for doctors and other healthcare professionals to move abroad in order to earn large and as well better their lives, Governor Soludo advocates for such actions to be encouraged, said it will help develop themselves and give back to the country.

"In the future, I see Nigeria as one of the greatest exporters of professionals in the world", he disclosed.

While congratulating the students and the university on a successful occasion, the governor emphasized the dire need for more doctors to handle the exponentially population of the country. "In Anambra State, we try putting afar the pay of doctors to be like what they pay in other federal institutions.

"We have recently signed off to sponsor the fees for the training of resident doctors in the institution to encourage the medical professionals to look back and reap in the system," he noted.

On infrastructural development, Prof. Soludo urged the university to practice 'Private Public Community Partnership' (PPCP), where prominent individuals in the state are reached out to support the institution financially thereby augmenting the efforts of the state government.

On her part, the Vice Chancellor, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU), Prof. Kate Omenugha advised the grandaunts to be good ambassadors of the university, saying, "we have taught you well and have tightened a whole lot of things to make you more responsive and responsible for the medical profession.

"We are commissioning you today to go out and fly the flag of COOU, a flag of excellence in knowledge and development," she advised.

She further encouraged them to strive to uphold the values that the institution has inculcated in them which is diligence in service, courage in upholding truth and faith in God.

Prof. Omenugha also lamented the lack of infrastructures in the university, emphasising that it has affected the human development aspect of the institution.

Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor led a team academics and research experts from Kenya and Uganda on a courtesy visit to the deputy governor's office, ahead of the 9th International Interdisciplinary Conference in the state.

According to Prof. Omenugha, the conference is a collaboration that promotes intercultural experience across countries in Africa.

In their separate speeches, the Vice Chancellor Mount Kenya University, Prof. Deogratius Jaganyi and the Vice Chancellor Kyambogo University Uganda, Prof. E. Katunguka both stated that the purpose for the visit is to promote visibility and collaboration, as well as engage in research and sharing of knowledge.

Responding, deputy governor, Dr Ibezim intimated the visitors on the vision and achievements of the state government on education.

In his words, "this government has started actualizing its vision in the education sector by filling the gaps, which included; employment of over 8,000 teachers across the state, offering free education to pupils and students in the state schools and among others.

GOVERNOR SOLUDO'S WIFE DISTRIBUTES STARTER PACKS, AS AGRIC COMM UNDERSCORES IMPORTANCE OF MECHANISATION

By Chukwuka Ugokwe



The Anambra State Governor's Wife, Dr. Mrs. Nonye Soludo, has distributed starter packs to 12 youths who have completed training in equipment fabrication under the Value Chain Development Programme.

Additionally, she flagged off the distribution of agricultural processing equipment, machinery, and open-body tricycles aimed at supporting the productivity of rice and cassava farmers, especially women's farming cooperatives.

The initiative is part of the state's Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP), a decade-old scheme focused on supporting rice and cassava farmers.

VCDP has been instrumental in enhancing food production, modernising agricultural processes, and creating market opportunities.

Mrs. Soludo emphasised the program's achievements in fostering improved processing facilities, noting that such investments benefit vulnerable groups and bolster Anambra's agricultural landscape.

In line with Gov. Chukwuma Soludo's "1 Youth, 2 Skills" agenda, this year's cohort marks an ongoing effort to combat youth unemployment through skill development.



Mrs. Soludo announced plans to train 20 more youths in 2025, reinforcing the government's commitment to job creation.

The newly distributed tricycles, she highlighted, will support farmers in transporting their goods to market efficiently, thereby reducing production costs and expanding market reach.

Mrs. Soludo urged recipients to utilise the resources responsibly to elevate their livelihoods, stressing that these tools are meant to benefit communities rather than being sold.

In an address, the State Commissioner for Agriculture, Dr. Forster Ihejiofor, described the event as a manifestation of the shared mission to drive mechanisation, enhance productivity, and improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

Earlier, the Acting State Programme Coordinator, Anambra State Value Chain Development Programme, Dr. Mrs. Debby Onyefulu, said the program, in collaboration with the federal government and IFAD, had been instrumental in transforming rice and cassava farming across the state.

PAYMENT OF MINIMUM WAGE: HOS CALLS FOR DEDICATION TO DUTY

By MaryAnn Chukwuma

Anambra State Head of Service, Lady Theodora Okwy Igwegbe has called on workers to show more dedication in rendering service to the people of Anambra State.

This call came during an interactive session between the Head of Service, and the press in her office at the Jerome Udorji Secretariat Complex, Awka concerning the new minimum wage implementation.

While speaking, the Civil Service boss called on workers to realize that the implementation points to the fact that the Anambra State Governor has their welfare at heart and expects reciprocation from them through commitment to duty.

Igwegbe thanked the labour leaders for the maturity shown throughout the period of consultations and considerations prior to the payment of the new minimum wage.

Lady Igwegbe also thanked the Governor of Anambra State, Prof. Charles Chukwuma Soludo for being quick in the implementation of the new Minimum Wage Act 2024.

The foremost Civil Servant while praising the governor, expressed utmost gratitude and assured him of the workers' support and their resolve to put in their best at all times.



DPO EKUASE ASSUMES COMMAND OF FEGGE POLICE STATION, WARNS CRIMINALS

By Juliana Nwachukwu

A new Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Mr. Ekuase Monday (SP), has taken over the Fegge Police station in Onitsha, the commercial hub of Southeast, and urged residents to come up with useful information that will lead to the arrest of criminals.

Reading the riot act to criminals, he stated that they better vacate the area in their own interest or be ready to meet their waterloo, assuring the informants that their identity would not be disclosed.

Mr. Monday, who is transferred from Makurdi, the Benue State capital, and hails from Edo State, reiterated that the area cannot be a safe haven for criminals and expressed satisfaction with the hospitality of the residents.

The new DPO who succeeded Mr. Uche Noah (CSP), the immediate past DPO of the station, expressed satisfaction with the hospitality of the residents and pledged their support to ensure that the area is free of crime and criminality.

He disclosed further that the type of hospitality and cooperation he received from the residents have not been experienced in places he had served, adding that he will not disappoint them and the police authority to find him worthy to serve in Fegge Police station.

NUJ HOLDS PRESS WEEK, DR MEFOR ALLAYS FEARS ON INSECURITY



By Bernadette Nwakile

Governor Chukwuma Soludo has expressed profound gratitude to State NUJ for effectively reporting the activities of the state government, unlike before.

The governor gave the indication during the 2024 Press Week and Man of the Year Award of the Union held at Godwin Ezeemo International Press Centre, Awka.

Represented by the Commissioner for Information, Dr. Law Mefor, the governor noted that the state is working round the clock to ensure that activities of miscreants are nipped in the bud. He corrected the impression that the security situation in the state is alarming and overbloated, assuring that the state government will do everything possible to ensure that the security and lives of the citizenry are protected.

He said in a few weeks time, Anambra State will witness an upsurge in security surveillance, promising that the coming Christmas will be the safest in the history of Anambra State. He commended Emeka Odogwu-led NUJ for organising an eventful 2024 Press Week and for aptly recognising excellence in honouring the wife of the governor, Dr. Mrs. Nonye Soludo, as the Most Supportive Governor's wife in Southeast and Voice of the Voiceless in Southeast, 2024.

The Key Note Speaker, Dr. Monday Ashibogwu, spoke extensively on the theme "The Media and Trajectories for Anambra State's Future in a Dwindling Economy," urging journalists in the state to stick to the ethics of the profession in their reportage.

In her speech, the Chairman of the Occasion, Prof. Chinyere Okunna, said, "The roles of the mass media are surveillance and agenda setting, which we are doing today, to tell the public and masses what watchdogs are all about.".

She praised the State NUJ Chairman, Odogwu Emeka Odogwu, PhD, for his doggedness and diligence in moving the Council forward as expected of him by members.

Contributing, the Head of Service, Barr. Theodora Igwegbe, who represented the wife of the Governor, Dr. Nonye Soludo, expressed sincere gratitude to the Union for the wonderful cooperation with the state government.

In a vote of thanks, the Chairman, NUJ Anambra State, Comrade Odogwu Emeka Odogwu, PhD, solicited financial support from various stakeholders that graced the occasion and pledged the commitment of the Union in reporting state government activities.

Highlights of the events were the presentation of Awards to the beneficiaries such as the Traditional Ruler of Alor, HRM, Igwe MacAnthony Chinedu Elibe Okonkwo who bagged the NUJ Anambra 2024 Philanthropist of the Decade for his proven track record of leadership, philanthropy and Community development, Dr. Chinedu Anthony Umeadi, who was conferred 2024 NUJ Anambra Man of the Year was as a result of his support for education, improving the health of the people, youth empowerment and poverty alleviation through his Foundation; Hon. Oliver N Okennah, bagged the 2024 NUJ Anambra Innovative Entrepreneur of the Year for using his innovative approaches to improving families in need, students for better tomorrow and agricultural productivity in rural areas and the Award for Ethical Journalism given to Mr. Emma Elekwa, a member of the Union.

The event was well attended by dignitaries, including the 2023 NUJ Anambra Man of the Year, HRH, Igwe Pharm Alex Uzo Onyido (Ezechuamagha of Ogidi Kingdom).