THE SOLUTION
WEEKLY BULLETIN
...a publication of Ministry of Information, Anambra state
..... VOL 1 NO 1

ANAMBRA NEWS AT A GLANCE



GOVERNOR SOLUDO & EDUCATION: A CATALOGUE OF FIRSTS

By Chinyere Ogbuagu

When Governor Soludo took over the mantle of leadership in Anambra State, he had a clear vision about how he wanted to drive the education sector. He, therefore, in his blueprint, developed the strategic objectives of education in Anambra State.

One of the key strategic objectives is: "to ensure accessible, equitable qualitative and gender-responsive functional education at all levels in Anambra State through a strong educational governance networking and sustainable funding".

This strategic objective makes clear the mandate of Mr. Governor and the way he wants education to be driven in the state. He has in place his development pillars of teacher education and management, a policy that has improved the welfare of teachers and brought them to limelight and developed competent educators to match the needs of the system. This policy has indeed increased the skills level of aspiring and current teachers in the state. No wonder we can beat our chests to say that the Soludo administration has indeed instituted quality education in the state.

Meanwhile, the State government has continued to improve the quality of education by the rehabilitation and renovation of some special schools such as: Basden Memorial Special Education Centre, Isulo; Special Education Centre, Odoakpu Onitsha etc. Procurement of consumables for Government Technical Colleges Alor, Onitsha and Nkpor have been done.

Governor Soludo is the first Governor to employ over 5,000 teachers, and has conducted teachers, principals, head-teachers, private school owners and administrators retreat.



THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION PROFESSOR NGOZI CHUMA UDEH.



Governor Soludo believes that quality manpower remains the key to the actualization of his agenda to transform education in Anambra State. He engaged in the recruitment of 5,000 teachers at first and 3,115 as follow-up in his drive to end the era of schools without teachers, a condition he met on his arrival to the State. His support to the State Education sector resulted to the organization retreats for teachers, principals and head-teachers in line with his programme of continuous upgrade of teachers.

Prof. Soludo has a target of transforming the State's community schools to smart status. Through this transformation, the Governor intends to bridge the gap between the children of the elites in the private schools and those of the poor in the community schools. Believing that there cannot be smart schools without smart teachers, the Governor has distributed laptop computers to principals and head-teachers in the State.

All these activities of Governor Soludo have changed the game in the education space of Anambra State. Teachers and school children have continued to show that Governor Soludo's massive investment has not been in vain. Consecutively, for three years, Anambra teachers and school children have returned with star prizes and several other awards.

In 2022, Chukwunedum Sabina Ijeoma won the overall best school administrator in Nigeria – Abbot Girls, Ihiala.

Marylyn Ugokwe won the overall best teacher, Private Junior Secondary School in Nigeria – Susu College, Nkpor.

Ifetike Chekwube Hope won the 1st runner-up Best Teacher, Senior Public Secondary School in Nigeria – GTC, Onitsha; while Nigeria Science and Technical College Nnewi won 1st runner-up Best Secondary Public School in Nigeria.

In 2023, Okoye Chidubem won 1st runner-up, Best Science Teacher in Nigeria. Best Private Junior Secondary School Teacher in Nigeria went to Oraekwu Obiageli Ruth of Carol Standard Convent, Ichi.

This year. 2024, Anambra State is at it again, producing the overall best teacher for the year 2024 in the person of Mr. Joseph Afamefuna Nwosu, a teacher in Government Technical School, Osomalla.

Chinenye Augustina Nwosu, a Biology Teacher at Anthony Obaze Memorial Community High School, Ochuche-Umuodu, Ogbaru LGA, One of the top 11 finalists and Representative of the entire SouthEast among the Top 11 Finalists has emerged the Anambra State Champion, Maltina Teacher of the year, 2024, the historic 10th edition.

The state also produced the best Primary School Head Teacher in the Federation by name Chukwudumebi Franca Ada of Afor Igwe Primary School, Umudioka.

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The second best secondary school principal went to Dr. Grace Umezinwa of Girls Secondary School, Uga.

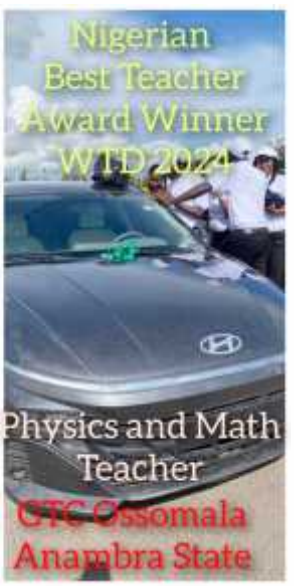
Holy Child Secondary School, Isuofia was adjudged second best Secondary School in the Federation.

Best Public Junior Secondary School Principal – Amaka Anaekwe of Capital City Secondary School, Awka.

STUDENTS

No doubt, these exploits by Anambra Teachers are clear indication of their motivation by the Solution Governor. The motivation has directly translated to the excellent performance of the





children of Anambra State in national and international competitions.

Anambra State represented the South-East and won First Position in the Junior Category of ANCOPSS quiz and essay competition held in Bauchi.

Anambra State represented the South-East and won First Position in the Senior Category of ANCOPSS quiz and essay competitions held in Bauchi.

Anambra Debate Team won the President's Inter-Senior Secondary Schools Debate Championship to represent Nigeria at the World Schools Debate Championship in Singapore in 2023.

Anambra Champion from Grundivig International Secondary School, Oba won National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) South-East Zonal Competition.

Anambra was Winner of the International Malaysia – Nigeria Debate Championship – representing Nigeria.

WELFARE

To make education accessible to all, education is now truly free in Anambra State from early childcare to primary school and junior secondary school (JS1) to senior secondary school (SSII). No hidden charges, no PTA levies.

Introduction of a remuneration structure that signals teaching as a priority profession.

There was the re-introduction of history in the curriculum, and overhauling of the existing curriculum to ensure the best possible standard in our system.

These achievements demonstrate Governor Soludo's dedication to improving education and developing the state's human capital.

With these initiatives, Anambra State is poised for continued growth and progress.

Solution is Here.



ANAMBRA, CHINA SEEK STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT

By Chukwuka Ugokwe

The Anambra State Government is to partner with the Peoples Republic of China to establish new projects and expand existing ones across the state.

This was the outcome of a collaborative meeting held in Awka between some officials of the state government and a delegation from the People's Republic of China.

It was gathered that the meeting agreed to articulate necessary frameworks to support the implementation of areas of partnership, including agriculture, the hospitality industry, waste recycling, and recreational facilities.

Representatives of the state government, including Dr. Forster Ihejiofor, Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr. Christian Udechukwu, and Mrs. Chiamaka Nnake, Commissioners for Commerce and Economic Planning, respectively, commended the delegation for the visit and noted that the state is looking forward to cooperating more with the country.

DEFEND GOVERNMENT IN POWER, COMMISSIONER TASKS INFORMATION OFFICERS



By Uzo Ugwunze

The Anambra State Commissioner for Information, Dr. Law Mefor, has tasked information officers under the ministry to hit the ground running by reporting all developmental activities and projects of Gov. Chukwuma Soludo, saying that they do not necessarily need to be All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) members to promote the good work of the present state government administration.

The Commissioner gave the directive during an interactive session with all the staff cum information officers (IOs) employed in the ministry at the Head of Service Auditorium, Jerome Udoji, Secretariat, Awka.

Dr. Mefor expressed worry that the governor's activities were underreported, insisting that there must be a paradigm shift.

In her remark, the Permanent Secretary, Barr Mrs. Ndirika Onyekwelu, said, 'Our commissioner is an 'A' person, so we are very lucky to have him at the helm of the affairs. He was appointed today, and the next day, he was already hosting a press briefing with every sector needed to make things work in the state.

Several information officers suggested ways to improve performance, efficiency, and productivity in the Ministry of Information.

FORMER PDP STALWART, BARR. CHUKWUDEBELU LAUDS GOVERNOR SOLUDO FOR MASSIVE TRANSFORMATION IN ANAMBRA STATE



By Felix Igboanugo

Former Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) stalwart, Barr. Chukwudebelu Ikechukwu has praised Governor Charles Soludo for his transformative initiatives that have reshaped state in recent times.

Barr. Chukwudebelu highlighted various achievements of the Soludo administration, including the construction of modern roads and bridges, revamping of the education sector, and provision of affordable healthcare for the people of Anambra State.

He further said that his strategic vision and effective implementation of policies has revitalised the state, noting that under Governor Soludo's leadership, Anambra has witnessed unprecedented growth and development in all sectors.

GOVERNMENT CRACKS DOWN ON DRAINAGE BLOCKING STRUCTURES IN NKPOR.



By Okechukwu Okolonji

Anambra State Government, through the Anambra State Physical Planning Board (ANSPPB), has rolled out its environment monitoring taskforce against structures blocking drains in Akuzo, Nkpor, and Idemili Local Government Area.

Speaking during the exercise, the Executive Secretary of the Board, Mr. Stephen Ezenwa, said that the structures were built on an existing drainage channel, thereby blocking the free flow of flood.

Ezenwa pointed out that the blockage caused flooding to prevent the occupants of the area from accessing their buildings and also destroyed property worth millions of naira.

SOLUDO'S POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES TARGETED AT CREATING EMPLOYEES OF LABOUR - MEFOR

The Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), in conjunction with Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU), on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, held the HRM Obi Alfred Nnaemeka Achebe Lecture Series, themed 'Achieving Peace and Reconciliation in Nigeria: The Public Relations Approach,' at the ETF Auditorium, COOU, Igbariam.

Speaking at the occasion, Anambra State Commissioner for Information, Dr. Law Mefor, welcomed the NIPR visitors to Anambra and encouraged them to see the sights and see for themselves that Anambra is being transformed by the Solution Government of Prof. Chukwuma Charles Soludo.

"Virtually all parts of Anambra are now construction sites. Up to 500 km of roads are awarded, with about 300 km of the roads completed and in use.

"Onitsha is being modernised. Awka is beginning to wear a true look befitting of a state capital with an array of road networks and a brand new government house, governor's lodge, fun city, and entertainment centre, among others."

Reacting also to the keynote lecture delivered by Prof. Pat Utomi, the commissioner said that Soludo was intentionally creating employers of labour through the One Youth, Two Skills Programme and free education up to senior secondary.



ANAMBRA ASSEMBLY SPEAKER COMMENDS SOLUDO'S BROADCAST ON LG AUTONOMY

By Chizoba Okeke

The Anambra State House of Assembly speaker, Mr. Somotochukwu Udeze, has commended Governor Soludo's broadcast on local government autonomy and related matters, saying it's agreeable with the constitutional provisions and legislative procedures.

Udeze also commended the governor for signing into law the Economic Planning and Development and Local Government Administration Laws.

The Speaker said that the explanations provided by Governor Chukwuma Soludo during his broadcast are quite explicit and in line with the mandate of the judiciary and legislature as well as the state and local government joint responsibilities.





COMMUNITY LEADER EXTOLS SOLUDO'S WORKS IN OKPOKO.

By Azuka Offor

The President General, the Okpoko community in Ogbaru Local Government Area of Anambra State, Chief Francis Enemuo, has extolled the commitment of Gov. Chukwuma Soludo's administration by making sure that every school in their town has access to potable water and toilet facilities.

Chief Enemuo made this known during a technical handover of rehabilitated solar-powered borehole and toilet facilities at Community Nursery, Primary and Secondary School, Otumoye, and Amaeze Village, all in Okpoko, Ogbaru LGA of Anambra State.

The president general, who was represented by the vice president, Mr. Ezenwa Udoka, maintained that this is one of the numerous facilities Gov. Soludo has brought to their town.

BOUNDRY MATTERS: ANAMBRA DEPUTY GOVERNOR URGES PEACEFUL RESOLUTION



By Chisom Okpala

The Anambra State Deputy Governor, Dr. Onyekachukwu Ibezim, has maintained that peaceful settlement should be adopted by communities in land disputes.

Ibezim, who is the Chairman of the Anambra State Boundary Committee, gave the charge while addressing the leaders of the Awa and Ufuma communities, both in the Orumba North Local Government Area, on a lingering boundary dispute.

He admonished them to avoid taking laws into their hands, explaining that no life is worth losing over land, but rather, "let us always pursue peace as a means to achieving a peaceful resolution."

Speaking, the Traditional Rulers of both communities, HRH Igwe I.O. Ezue of Awa and HRH Igwe S.C. Uchime of Ufuma, called on the state boundary committee to establish a clear boundary demarcation, noting that there are still lingering unresolved issues despite court judgements.

SOLUDO'S PROMISE FULFILLED: ANAMBRA LG ELECTION MADE HISTORY, SAYS MEFOR

By Juliana Nwachukwu



The Commissioner for Information, Dr Law Mefor has said that Governor Soludo has made history by successfully conducting local government elections in Anambra State.

Speaking to newsmen after the inauguration of 21 local government chairmen and their deputies at Government House, Awka, Mefor stated, "History is made today, indeed history broken. This is a big promise kept, as Governor Soludo had vowed to conduct local government elections upon taking office.



UNLOCKING GROWTH: EMPOWERING ANALYTICS SKILLS THROUGH CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

By Chiamaka Edokwe

The Anambra State Investment Promotion and Protection Agency (ANSIPPA), in collaboration with the Anambra State Small Business Agency (ASBA), recently hosted a pivotal event aimed at enhancing credit opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Anambra State.

The gathering, which took place at the International Convention Centre on October 15, 2024, was attended by government officials and over 150 SME representatives, highlighting the state's commitment to fostering a conducive business environment.

Governor Chukwuma Soludo, represented by the Commissioner for Industry, Mr. Christian Udechukwu, announced that Anambra has been recognised nationally as the best SME-friendly state in the South East and ranks first for Ease of Doing Business (EODB) in Southern Nigeria.

PUPILS, PG HAIL SOLUDO AS MORE SCHOOLS, COMMUNITIES GET SOLAR POWERED BOREHOLES



By Azuka Offor

The President General of Okpoko Community in Ogbaru Local Government Area of Anambra State, Chief Francis Enemuo, has lauded the Soludo-led administration for providing solar powered boreholes and toilet facilities to their schools.

Speaking during the technical handover of the projects by the state Commissioner for Power and Water Resources, Mr Julius Chukwuemeka, at Okpoko Community Primary School III, Okpoko Community School 5 and 6, and at Obife Secretariat premises, the president general of the town, Mr. Ezenwa Udoka, expressed their satisfaction with the good works Governor Soludo has been doing in Okpoko since the inception of his administration.

These, they said, range from good roads network to constant power supply (solar), pipe borne water, free education and lot's more.

COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH HOLDS DATA REVIEW MEETING

By Chukwudi Nwauba

Anambra State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Afam Obidike, has convened a data review meeting with key stakeholders from various health sectors.

The gathering was aimed at analysing recent health data trends, identifying areas needing urgent attention, and strategising for improved healthcare delivery.

Dr. Obidike reiterated the commitment of Gov. Chukwuma Soludo's administration in the healthcare sector of the state, even as he emphasised the importance of data-driven decision-making in addressing public health challenges.



2024 WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY: HOS HAILS SOLUDO ON WORKERS' WELL BEING THROUGH FREE SCREENING



By MaryAnn Chukwuma

Workers in Anambra State, joined the rest of the world to mark the 2024 World Mental Health Day celebration.

The event, which held at the Jerome Udorji Secretariat Complex, Awka, had civil servants benefit from free mental screening, organised by the Governor of Anambra State, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, through the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The Head of Service, Lady Theodora Igwegbe, who affirmed the importance of maintaining good mental health, applauded Gov. Soludo for ensuring that Anambra workers have access to free mental screening as it surely affects the effectiveness of service delivery.

PROF. OFOEGBU CRACKS DOWN ON FAKE CLEARANCE CERTIFICATES

By Adaobi Nsofor

The Office of the Chairman, Mining Reform Committee, has apprehended a group of miners, who falsely claimed to be collaborating with the Mining Reform Committee while issuing unauthorized certificates to fellow miners.

Prof. Charles Ofoegbu, Chairman of the Committee, strongly condemned the act, describing it as a criminal offense. He expressed dismay at the extent to which individuals will go to undermine Anambra State Government's efforts, emphasising that perpetrators must face justice.





ENCOMIUMS AS IDEMILI SOUTH CHAIRMAN, OTHERS, TAKE OATH OF OFFICE

By Uzo Ugwunze

APGA stalwarts have been pouring in goodwill messages to congratulate Mrs. Amaka Obi of Idemili South LGA and her deputy, Mr Ifeanyi Anakuba, as they took their oath of office alongside counterparts from Anambra's 20 LGAs. This milestone marks the beginning of a new era in local government administration under Governor Chukwuma Soludo's visionary leadership

Mrs Amaka Obi, fondly known as Iyom Ife-Abata, has pledged to prioritize the welfare of the people, upholding their confidence and trust, saying that her victory is a testament to her acceptability to the people, capacity, and capability to excel in her new role.

Anambra State Commissioner for Entertainment, Culture and Tourism, Mr Don Onyenji, Idemili South APGA Chairman, Chief Kizito Anoliefo and Amb Clinton Bonaventure Obi Ngige, in their separate remarks, rejoiced with the newly sworn in chairman and her deputy, wishing them successful tenure in office. They equally commended Anambra State Governor, Prof Chukwuma Soludo for giving the state electoral commission all that needed to conduct credible election.

ANSEC AWARDS CONTRACTS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ODUIGBO MARKET, ONITSHA, REHABILITATION OF NNEWI TO OBA ROAD

Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC) has approved the award of a contract for the reconstruction of the Oduigbo Market Onitsha as part of the Urban Renewal initiative of the Governor Chukwuma Soludo administration. The project will be done for N475,776,756.20 (four hundred and seventy-five million, seven hundred and seventy-six thousand, seven hundred and fifty-six naira, and twenty kobo) and will be delivered in three months.

According to the Commisioner for Information, Dr. Law Mefor: "The rehabilitation of Nnewi to Oba road to ensure pleasurable movement of people and goods that have remained impassable for many years, especially during the rainy season, was also awarded. The memo was presented by the MD/CEO of Anambra Road Maintenance Agency (ARMA), Engr. Obinna Nduka, through a direct procurement at the cost of One Hundred and Thirty-One Million, Three Hundred and Four-Three Thousand, Six Hundred and Twelve Naira, and Twenty-Eight Kobo (N131, 343, 612. 28).

"The ANSEC Meeting also approved the rehabilitation of Nkpor to Obosi Road. The rehabilitation will be directly carried out by the Anambra Road Maintenance Agency (ARMA) at the sum of Sixty-Three Million, One Hundred and Ninety-Three Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirty-Three Naira, Thirteen Kobo (N63, 193, 633. 14).

"The rehabilitation of the Nteje to Otuocha road, aimed at ensuring the smooth movement of people and goods, was also awarded. The Anambra Road Maintenance Agency (ARMA) will directly oversee this project, which is estimated to cost Fifty Million, Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand, Eight Hundred and Forty-Nine Naira, and Seventy-Three Kobo (N50, 440, 849.73)".



SOLUDO, BREAKING GENERATIONAL POVERTY TRANSFER WITH FREE EDUCATION AND ONE YOUTH, TWO SKILLS - MEFOR



By Rose Oranye

Anambra State Commissioner for Information, Dr. Law Mefor, has described Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo's free education policy as a way of breaking generational poverty transfer among families where poverty has become a dynasty in the state.

Addressing journalists on Thursday, October 3, 2024, when he led a delegation of Governor Soludo's media team to the October monthly meeting of members of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) at the Godwin Ezeemo International Press Centre, Awka, the commissioner further observed that both the 'One Youth, Two Skills' Programme and the free education from primary to senior secondary schools are ways of dealing with poverty transfer, just like the 'Igba Boi' system adopted by Ndigbo after the civil war.

In their separate remarks, the Anambra State Chairman of NUJ, Dr. Odogwu Emeka Odogwu, and the first female professor of mass communication in Nigeria and former commissioner for information in Anambra State, Prof. Chinyere Stella Okunna, assured of the union's support and willingness to partner with the government for a better and greater Anambra.



ANAMBRA RECORDS SURGE IN ANTENATAL CARE DUE TO SUCCESSFUL FREE HEALTHCARE PROGRAMME

By Ebele Egoh

General Hospital Enugwu Ukwu has recorded a significant increase in antenatal cases, with over 90 new cases being treated monthly.

According to Mrs. Lorretta Okonkwo, Matron of the Antenatal Unit, the state government's free healthcare initiative has led to a significant increase in antenatal care uptake among pregnant women.

She noted that the free healthcare initiative launched by Governor Chukwuma Soludo included free registration, antenatal care, laboratory examinations, drugs, delivery, and cesarean sections in all government hospitals and is available to all pregnant mothers residing in Anambra, regardless of their state of origin.

Hospital Administrator, Dr. Frank Ifeanaeme recently visited the maternity section of General Hospital Enugwu Ukwu to assess the care provided to pregnant mothers.

As he sampled the opinions of expectant mothers who came for antenatal about the free health care initiative of Governor Soludo, they all expressed joy while recounting the benefits they enjoyed.