GOVERNMENT OF ANAMBRA STATE NIGERIA

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ANAMBRA NEWS AT A GLANCE



SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT A PREREQUISITE FOR ANAMBRA AS A SMART MEGA CITY

Lilian Ezejiegu

The Ministry of Environment's mandate is primarily to secure a clean, healthy and sustainable environment that will be conducive for tourism, economic growth and the well-being of Ndi Anambra. They are charged with the responsibility of overseeing the environment sector in the state.

In doing so, the ministry's responsibility to formulate policies, laws and regulations will enable the state to achieve the target on the environment, which is one of the key pillars of Governor Soludo's mandate in making the state a liveable and prosperous homeland.

The present administration, since its inauguration, has elevated spontaneous remarks and commitment towards keeping Anambra State clean, green and healthy. Soludo's administrative ingenuity has promoted a cleaner, greener and more environmental sustainability in the state.

Under the visionary guidance of the governor, the Ministry of Environment has witnessed significant transformation characterised by the clearing and evacuation in major urban areas of the state, especially in the Okpoko community in the Ogbaru local government area of Anambra State.

Governor Soludo has placed priority on environmental sanitation and has desilted drainages in Okpoko and other places, as well as cleared waste littered in the streets to keep Anambra State clean.



Engr. Felix Odimegwu
Commissioner for Environment

Besides, the installation of solar lights in the waste dump sites at Onitsha along Onitsha-Owerri is noteworthy. The engagement of 31 solid waste contractors in July 2022 to undertake house-to-house collection of

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WHAT IS SOLUDO DOING IN THE STATE CAPITAL AWKA???

✓ **LANDMARK PROJECTS**

- New Government House
- New Governor's Lodge
- Solution FunCity
- Solution Innovation District
- Revamped Great Awka Water Scheme
- Reconstruction of Ekwueme Square
- Awka City Shopping Mall and many others

✓ **ROAD PROJECTS**

- Ifite Amansea Road
- Aroma Overpass
- Club (Abakiliki) Road to Ngozika
- Regina Caeli Y-Junction Road
- Unizik Tempsite-Okpuno-Isuaniocha Road
- Chukwudifu Street
- Millennium Industry-INEC Road
- Umuogbu Road
- St Faith Road
- Meniru Street Amawbia
- Ngene Amawbia Road
- Works Road Junction/Bishop Crowther Road

National Awards for Fiscal Policies

- Ranked No. 1 in fiscal transparency
- Ranked No. 3 in fiscal performance
- Trained 25,000 youths on technology skills

And many other projects... You can verify
Support Governor Soludo To Do More!



Ministry of Information

Sustainable CLEAN & GREEN ANAMBRA

Is everybody's responsibility.

Keep your compound and gutter clean

refuse occasioned the near eradication of open dump sites.

Furthermore, the environmentally friendly administration of the governor facilitated the distribution of branded waste bins to Anambra residents to enhance house-to-house collection of refuse disposal through ASWAMA.

Also, public toilets were constructed in strategic places like Upper-Iweka, Onitsha, through a climate-smart project in collaboration with the federal government to help curtail open-air defecation.

Other ongoing projects include the massive awareness and sensitisation campaign and enforcement through the operation Clean and Green Anambra aimed at ensuring a clean, green and smart megacity for Anambra.

Anambra State ranks one of the best in Operation Clean-Up Nigeria, which translated to a 4th position soon to be improved upon.

Another significant transformation in the environment section was the massive tree planting launched by the governor, which extended to major cities and towns in the state, such as Onitsha, Awka and Nnewi.

Every year, the state government plants over one million trees, which help to check erosion and climate change mitigation and provide environmental sustainability with the economic trees; the governor wants a sustainable environment to alleviate poverty.

Also, the seedlings were planted to provide aesthetics to the environment. 5,000 seedlings of different species and planting of trees in its reforestation agenda in the Mamu area in Anambra State, Ossomala and Ebenebe are all geared towards improving the ecosystem in collaboration with the federal government.

Moreover, a citizen-driven strategy was initiated, "THE ALL ANAMBRA STATE PLASTIC WASTE RECOVERY CHALLENGE". This policy was formulated to rid the environment of pernicious plastic waste materials cost-effectively by engaging and motivating the citizens themselves to do the needful. The strategy brought about behavioural change in the people towards the environment. The first edition in 2023 was achievable, and the second edition in 2024 was promptly motivating and innovative too. Its target is to recover 100,000 tonnes of plastic from the environment and create 5,000 indirect jobs via recycling chains. This had a desirable impact on the people of Anambra State.

Kudos to the amiable and resilient Commissioner for Environment, Dr Felix Odimegwu, for his zealous contributions and hard work to the Ministry.

Indeed, the solution is here. Help keep Anambra clean.



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ASUBEB CONDUCTS ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR NEWLY RECRUITED PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS





By Rita Okonkwo

Anambra State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB) has successfully conducted an orientation programme/capacity building workshop for the newly recruited teachers across the three senatorial zones of the state.

The three-day orientation sessions held at ASUBEB Utility Hall marked a significant step in preparing the educators for their new roles.

ASUBEB Chairman, Dr Vera Nkiru Nwadinobi, in her keynote address, expressed deep appreciation to the state Governor, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, for his unwavering commitment to education and teachers' development; the recruitment of 8,115 teachers; and the free education policy.

She congratulated the new teachers, described their recruitment as a pivotal moment of their lives, reminded them of their crucial role in shaping future leaders, and urged them to approach their duties with dedication, passion, and a sense of purpose.

According to the ASUBEB boss, "Teaching is not just a profession but a calling; it demands patience, empathy, and a willingness to positively impact the lives of the learners."

She urged the teachers to be creative and innovative in their approach and make use of their Android phones for digital teaching and learning rather than irrelevant things, while adhering to professional ethics and standards, including appropriate behaviours.

The orientation featured topics that provided insights into the essential teaching strategies and practices: knowledge of child psychological principles and teacher effectiveness, classroom management and organisation for effective learning outcomes, curriculum content delivery with emphasis on modern skills, methods of teaching, and ethics of the teaching profession, as delivered by Mrs Amaka Amuze, Uju Udeh, Amaka Ikedimma and Lady Stella Ezepue.

In attendance at the event were the Board Secretary, Mrs Loveline Mgbemena; Board members; Director of Academic Services; and other ASUBEB Directors.

ANAMBRA STATE GOVERNMENT CRACKS DOWN ON ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN ONITSHA

By Okolonji Okechukwu

The Anambra State Government, in collaboration with the State Joint Task Force on land recovery, has embarked on a demolition exercise in Trans-Nkisi Phase 2, Onitsha, within the Onitsha North Local Government Area. Led by the Chairman of the Anambra State Physical Planning Board, Mr Chikeaduekwe (Esq.), and Mr Ngozi Agudosi, Chairman of the Committee on Land Recovery, the team targeted structures erected without government approval.

According to Mr. Agudosi, the land in question had been allocated to individuals with Certificates of Occupancy for development purposes. However, some unscrupulous individuals from Onitsha began claiming, parcelling, and selling the land illegally.
He emphasised that following a report, the government revoked the land and ordered the demolition of all structures on the site..



A resident, who wished to remain anonymous, praised the government's efforts, stating that the illegal developers had been forcibly taking over land and buying from fraudsters without verifying ownership. The resident commended the Soludo administration for the exercise, believing it would deter future illegal development in the area.

ANAMBRA STATE GOVERNMENT EMBARKS ON ANTHRAX VACCINATION CAMPAIGN, CALLS FOR INTENSIFIED EFFORTS TO SAFEGUARD LIVES AND LIVESTOCK

By Chukwuemeka Orji

The Anambra State Government, in collaboration with the Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (LPRES), has launched a 13-day statewide vaccination campaign against anthrax. This critical initiative spans all 21 local government areas (LGAs) of the state.

Dr Basil Ejidike, the Director of Veterinary Services in the State Ministry of Agriculture, led the vaccination team. Speaking during the exercise at Isiagu Community, Dr. Ejidike emphasised the significance of this campaign in combating anthrax, a zoonotic disease that poses serious health risks to both humans and livestock.

"Anthrax is a severe threat to public health and livestock. Through this vaccination campaign, we aim to raise awareness, mobilise resources, and ensure proactive intervention to prevent an outbreak. Protecting livestock farmers and minimising risks are our top priorities," Dr Ejidike said.

The campaign focuses on vaccinating cattle, sheep, and goats against the disease to build a healthier and more resilient state free from anthrax. Dr Ejidike highlighted that success requires unity, timely action, and sustained effort. "Together, we can create a safer environment for future generations," she affirmed.

Dr Ejidike extended his gratitude to the state government, the LPRES project, veterinary professionals, and community members for their support in eradicating anthrax from the state.

This initiative underscores the government's commitment to safeguarding both human lives and livestock, fostering resilience within Anambra communities.



COMMISSIONER FOR POWER AND WATER RESOURCES COMMENDS STATE GOVERNMENT FOR LIGHTING UP OGBOJI AND ITS ENVIRONS

By Azuka Offor

The Commissioner for Power and Water Resource, Mr. Julius Chukwuemeka has commended the efforts of the Anambra State Government in providing the people of Ogboji community and it's environs with the installation of 7.5 injection sub-station at Anambra State Mis-use industrial city Ogboji and the extension of 33kv high tension from Oji River to Ogboji respectively.

Mr. Chukwuemeka made this commendation during a joint inspection by some house members and members of the Ministry of Power and Water Resource on the on- going installation of 7.5 injection sub-station at Anambra State Mis-use industrial city Ogboji.

"The project, when completed, will provide 20-24 hours of power supply to communities like Awa, Ufuma, Ajalli, Akpu, Ndiokpalaeze, among others".

The commissioner who was satisfied with the level of work done so far, maintained that the power which is one of the key pillars of development in Soludo's administration will attract industrialists to move in, invest and develop the state as Governor Soludo is poised in transforming the state into a "livable and prosperous smart mega city", with a mission to stimulate economic growth and development.



Speaking earlier during the inspection tour, the Chairman House Committee on Power and Water Resources, Hon. Golden Chukwuemeka, thanked the state government for mobilising the contractor well enough for the job while expressing his satisfaction with the level of work done so far. According to him, the work is quite commendable ".

On his part, the House Committee Chairman on Works, Rt, Hon. Emma Nwafor maintained that the project is "the proposed hub of Anambra State". "A promise well fulfilled by Soludo's administration".

Hon. Nwafor commended the contractor for working tirelessly to see that the project will be completed as at when due. He equally used the opportunity to thank the state government for the wonderful project.

Also present at the inspection visit included the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Power and Water Resources, Sir Victor Ezekwo, Hon. Anayo Okpalaeke, Hon. Ebuka Igwe among others.

ANAMBRA HEALTH COMMISSIONER REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO END SEXUAL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



By Chris Chikelue/Azuka Nnabuife

The Anambra State Commissioner for Health, Dr Afam Obidike, has reiterated the commitment of Gov. Charles Soludo's administration to end Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in the state.

Speaking at the Ntasi Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) Committee meeting in Awka, Dr Obidike emphasised the state's dedication to ensuring that perpetrators of SGBV are prosecuted. He disclosed that individuals arrested for sexual violence have been charged in court.

He stressed that it is a legal obligation to report rape cases, particularly those involving minors, while citing the recent case of a 7-year-old girl defiled by a 58-year-old pastor, which was uncovered through telemedicine consultations at the Obosi Primary Healthcare Centre.

The Commissioner called for strengthened collaboration with local government authorities to raise awareness and combat SGBV.

"The public must be well-informed about reporting sexual assault cases. We need a robust system in place to prevent corruption and ensure that perpetrators face the law," Dr Obidike said.

He praised the wife of the governor, Mrs Nonye Soludo, for her efforts through the 'Healthy Living with Nonye Soludo' NGO, which has rescued many victims of sexual assault in the state.

Mrs Soludo has pledged to ensure justice for survivors and hold perpetrators accountable.

In her address, Mrs Juliet Olumuyiwa-Rufai, a facilitator and consultant for SARC, outlined the centre's role in providing timely, life-saving services to survivors of sexual abuse. These services include forensic medical exams, evidence collection, lab screenings, pregnancy tests, and clinical treatment.

Moreover, RoLAC State Programme Coordinator, Mrs Josephine Onah, urged the committee members to remain dedicated to tackling sexual gender-based violence and ensuring justice for victims.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Ministries of Health, Justice, and Women Affairs and Social Welfare, as well as the Police, Civil Defence and the Nigeria Correctional Service.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: ANAMBRA ASSEMBLY SPEAKER, UDEZE FELICITATES ANGLICAN, CATHOLIC MOTHERS

By Chizoba Okeke

As the Anglican and Catholic Mothers as well as other mothers from other religious bodies celebrate this year's Mothering Sunday, the Speaker of Anambra State House of Assembly, Rt.Hon.Somtochukwu Udeze has described Christian Mothers as pivotal instruments designed by God for family transformation and evangelism.

Felicitating Christian Mothers as they converge on their various churches to mark their special sunday, Rt.Hon.Udeze commended them for the critical role they play in the church especially their massive support towards the growth and development of their various churches.

The Speaker, who enjoined Christian Mothers to emulate virtuous women like Mary, Esther, Dorcas and Hannah, among others, whose faith and trust in God were unwavering, encouraged them to always bear fruits worthy of good Christian Mothers.

He charged them to continue to champion family prayer and be good examples to their children by inculcating love and good morals in them through proper training.

Udeze prayed God to continue to strengthen Christian Mothers in all ramifications and give them sound health and longevity to enable them to celebrate more glorious Mothering Sunday.



BHCPF PHC REVITALISATION: OWERRI-EZUKALA PHC GETS SOLAR BOREHOLE, FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE, OTHERS







By Nnedinma Okeke

With the aid of the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) – a special vehicle for financing primary healthcare in the country – Owerre-Ezukala PHC in Orumba South Local Government Area has been revitalised with a solar-powered borehole, a functional structure, staff quarters, perimeter fencing, and a security house, among others.

The BHCPF aids in ensuring that Nigerians have access to quality healthcare without financial risks.

The Executive Secretary of the Anambra State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (ASPHCDA), Pharm Chisom Uchem, carried out a visit to inspect the completion of work on the revitalised Owerre-Ezukala PHC, a beneficiary of the BHCPF PHC revitalisation project in Anambra.

She explained that BHCPF was one per cent of the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) of the federal government, which aims to upgrade quality of service delivery, address financial barriers to access to basic health services, and provide for emergency medical treatment and services.

She noted that some dilapidated structured PHCs in the state were being revitalised with the aid of the BHCPF.

``These PHCs were revitalised with solar light, staff quarters, a solar-powered borehole, a functional PHC structure, and other amenities to ensure full functionality of a PHC was made available in the course of the BHCPF PHC revitalisation project," she said.

The Head Planning Research and Statistics (DPRS) Department, ASPHCDA, Mr. Casmir Mabia, noted that the selected revitalised BHCPF PHCs were beneficiaries of the BHCPF PHC revitalisation project awarded at the end of 2024.

These PHCs included PHC Aguluzigbo in Anaocha LGA, PHC Urum in Awka North LGA, Basic Health PHC Court Road in Onitsha North LGA, and PHC Owerre-Ezukala, Orumba South LGA.

The Contractor, Mr Obinna Okoli, CEO of Harris Millennium Estate Nigeria Limited, who executed the Owerre-Ezukala PHC revitalisation project, noted that they moved to site immediately the mobilisation fee was made.

Today, the project is completed as we tried to meet up with the timeline of the job, which was programmed for three months. Prior to mobilisation for the job, the health facility was in a dilapidated state with no perimeter fencing, no security house, and dead zone quarters which is now habitable as a result of the revitalisation.

"The challenge faced in the course of the job was with the borehole installation, as the area is a stony one, which made it a bit challenging for us to get water," he said``The challenge faced in the course of the job was with the borehole installation, as the area is a stony one, which made it a bit challenging for us to get water," he said.

The contractor, then, thanked the funders of the project, the ASPHCDA team, and the state government for creating an enabling environment for the project to be achievable.

Traditional Ruler, Eze Ogbamblaka II of Owerre-Ezukala, HRH Igwe T. O. Ogbonnaya, expressed gratitude for the development of the PHC revitalisation whilst thanking the funders and government for the intervention in the community.

Present at the visit were the Director of Community Health Services, ASPHCDA- Dr Ngozi Okeke; PHC Director Orumba South LGHA- Mrs Philomena Aniokwu; Head of the Account Department, ASPHCDA- Mrs Amaka Maduka; among many others.

ELD-EL-FITR: NSCDC DEPLOYS 1045 TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SECURITY IN ANAMBRA

By Juliana Nwachukwu

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, (NSCDC) , Anambra State Command has deployed a total of 1,045 officers and men ahead of the Eid -el Fitr celebrations for the maintenance of law and order, surveillance and protection of critical national, state and local government assets and infrastructure.

According to the press release by SC Okadigbo Edwin, Head, Media and Tactical Ops NSCDC Anambra State, Commandant Maku Olatunde stated this in an operational order issued by the command directing all Heads of Departments, (HODs) Heads of Units (HOUs), Area Commanders, Divisional Officers, Heads of Formations, Composite Commanders and Heads of Tactical Squads to mobilise operational assets and beef up security within their areas of responsibility before, during and after the celebration.

"The round-the-clock surveillance has been put in place in some identified black spots, threat-prone areas, flashpoints and other vulnerable criminal spots towards ensuring a seamless and peaceful Sallah celebration.

"Personnel drawn from other specialised units, including the Armed Squad, Female Strike Force, Rapid Tactical Squad, Anti- Vandalism Squad, Critical National Assets and Infrastructure (CNAI), Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosives (CBRNE), Counter-Terrorism Unit and Disaster Management Unit are to dominate the public space, Eid grounds, social and recreational centers, critical national infrastructure, amusement parks, and other strategic public places to build confidence amongst the citizens and fun seekers.

"The NSCDC state helmsman emphasised that deployed personnel must conduct themselves civilly and professionally, respecting the fundamental human rights of citizens while performing their duties with utmost decorum and vigilance.

"Additionally, residents are urged to remain vigilant, keep a close eye on their children, cooperate with the NSCDC and other security agencies and promptly report any suspicious activities to the nearest NSCDC office or other security agencies.

"The state Commandant extended warm greetings to Muslim faithful nationwide on the occasion of Eid-el-Fitr, while reaffirming the command's commitment to collaborate with other security agencies to prevent criminal activities before, during, and after the celebration," he said.



ANAMBRA YOUTH COMMISSIONER INSPECTS EDI CENTRES IN ONITSHA, OYI AND DUNUKOFIA LGAS

By Ifeoma Aniagbado

The inspection team of Ministry of Youth Development has inspected six entrepreneurship centers in Onitsha, Oyi and Dunukofia LGAs in continuation of the monitoring of Entrepreneurship Development Institutes(EDI), across the state.

The inspection team, led by the commissioner, Mr. Patrick Agha Mba, inspected EDI centres in Onitsha North and South LGAs, including Onitsha Leadership and Entrepreneur Centre (OLEC), Beatrice Onyemelukwe Institute Centre, as well as Idemili, Oyi and Dunukofia LGAs EDI Centers.

Addressing the trainees in their separate centres, Mr. Agha-Mba said that 1 Youth 2 Skills is a unique program that Mr. Governor has initiated to create employment for youths in the state, adding that the ministry is working tirelessly to ensure that the goal is achieved.

He also said that 1 Youth 2 Skills is Mr. Governors initiative driven collaboratively by Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) including Ministries of Education, Agriculture, Industry, and Ministry of Culture and Entertainment, Anambra ICT Agencies and Solution Innovation District (SID) in order to reduce crime and engage the youths of the state meaningfully.

He commended the EDI facilitators for the efforts they are putting to develop youths in the state and congratulated the beneficiaries for being



steadfast and focused in the program.

One of the beneficiaries, Chisom Ezeanya thanked the governor for the wonderful opportunities giving to him to be part of the program and promised that she will be an employer of labor in order to reduce unemployment in the state.

Some of the beneficiaries who spoke during the Inspection expressed heartfelt gratitude to the state government and commended the Unizik business School for giving them more knowledge on new innovation and ideas on how to manage their business through EDI training and said that the program is a life changing venture.

ANAOCHA MAYOR COMMISSIONS ULTRAMODERN ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK FOR AGULU SKILL ACQUISITION CENTRE

By Lilian Orakwue

The Mayor of Anaocha Local Government, Comrade Rome Ibekwe, has commissioned an ultramodern administrative block for the Agulu Skill Acquisition Centre. The three-room office complex with a toilet facility was built by his administration on assumption of office and was part of his promise to put all in place to engage the youths of the council area in meaningful and self-reliant ventures that will keep them off the street by learning a skill or two.

Speaking at the event, Mayor Ibekwe promised to build more of the skill centres in the communities in the area. "We are making a serious move for Anaocha to work," he noted. He enumerated some of the projects embarked upon by his administration for a greater Anaocha, which included the evacuation of waste from different parts of the council area for a clean environment; plans to revamp and put into use all moribund water boreholes scattered in the communities; and the empowerment of over 500 youths drawn from different communities and wards who have undergone training in different skills, which included bag making, shoe making, computer skills, hairdressing, cosmetology, tailoring and



more, also promising his people more developmental projects.

The mayor, who extolled the state governor, Prof Charles Soludo, for his consistency and commitment to community development and grassroots governance, revealed the award of the Agbanabo Nri road connecting Nimo town by the state government, promising a town hall meeting at the end of his one year in office for accountability. He reassures an open-door policy administration for the good people of Anaocha.

Responding, the President General of the Agulu Progressive Union, Chief Oliver Afamefuna, appreciated the mayor for his commitment to a greater Anaocha and also the state governor for giving Agulu in particular and Anaocha in general priority in his projects in the state, promising unalloyed support of the people to his administration.

MOTHER'S SUNDAY: WOMEN URGED TO BUILD THEIR HOMES WITH GOD'S STANDARD

By Obianuju Azukaego

Women have been admonished to build their homes with the standard of God so that they will achieve the purpose with which God created them. A postulant in the Basilica of Divine Grace Anglican Church, Nibo, Mr Ejike Asogwa made this admonition during a Mothering Sunday celebration last Sunday in the church.

Mr Asogwa said that women being assigned as helpmates to their husbands by God, they should uphold their husbands with fervent prayers to help them achieve godly families. He said that women should obey God's command in Ephesians 5:22-24 to be submissive to their husbands and not display unruly character toward them.

The postulant said that even when their husbands were falling short of their responsibilities, they should not abuse or disrespect them but take them to God in prayers. "When you, as a woman, begin to challenge your husband with abusive words, it might lead to domestic violence. So I urge you to always uphold your husbands with prayers, not by physical fight," he added.

Asogwa urged them to emulate Sarah, the wife of Abraham in the Bible, who reverenced her husband by calling him Lord. He also tasked the women to train up their children and wards in God's fear, as recorded in Proverbs 22:6, so that they will not depart from it when they grow up.

The preacher regretted that lack of proper and God-fearing upbringing of children has led to many social vices in the society. He called on women to rise up and help their husbands to do everything within their reach to bring up decent children.

Mr Asogwa frowned at the situation whereby some parents push their children to engage in illegal means of getting wealth, while warning them that the consequences of this have led to the untimely death of many in society. He urged women to take it as a challenge to put an end to such notions of 'Get Rich Quick Syndrome' by teaching the young ones moral values.

"Women, please help your husbands to inform your children and wards of the danger of engaging in money rituals, Yahoo business and other evil ways of getting wealth. Tell them that ill-gotten money will cut short their destinies. Let them know that they will live to fulfil their purpose on earth if they follow the right way of living and making money," he said.

The preacher frowned at the ungodly and immodest way of fashion some women have taken, as well as the way they are teaching their children. "It is disheartening that ungodly fashion has taken over some Christian women to the extent that they no longer care about the admonition given to them in 1 Timothy 5:15, he said.

The high point of the event was the presentation of dance, drama, special renditions and other side attractions by the women.

ANAMBRA GOVERNMENT WARNS AGAINST HARASSMENT OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS

By Obiageli Nwankwo



Anambra State Commissioner for Education, Prof. Ngozi Chuma-Udeh, has warned that the government will not tolerate harassment of private schools. She issued this warning during a stakeholders' meeting on the National Education Quality Assurance Policy (NEQAP) and Implementation guidelines held at the Ministry of Education Boardroom in Awka.

The commissioner frowned at the incessant terrorization of private schools by challants who go about masquerading as government staff to extort money from these schools.

The Commissioner while lauding the importance of quality assurance policy in the education sectors, enjoined the office to understand that there is delineation of duties and also of the need to understand the working terrain of the state in which they discharge their duties as federal staff in order to avoid clash of power.

"We have quality assurance policy bodies instituted in the Ministry of Education and Education agencies,it behooves as a federal staff you must ensure your work aligns with the structure the state government has on ground guiding the education industry. You are expected to follow laid down procedure entrenched in the state education guideline.

"If you feel the structure put in place is not mallable ,this is also open for discussion but the state wants to ensure that whoever is coming into the schools is legitimate.

"If we become porous, how can we checkmate the excesses of rascals camouflaging as government staff, how do we differentiate between right and wrong ones?" she questioned.

In her remarks,the Director of the National Education Quality Assurance Policy, (NEQAP)Awka Office, Mrs Regina Ifezuruike while acknowledging the goodwill the office has enjoyed from public schools and her office readiness to follow due procedure,expressed the expectation that the NEQAP office will receive such collaboration from the private and mission schools.

She highlighted that NEQAP office was instituted to ensure that the Federal Ministry of Education and State Ministries of Education are working in uniformity as it regards education policies and Implementation.

While debunking the notion circulating in the corridors of most private and mission schools that the office is out to fleece money from them, Mrs Ifezuruike restated that quality assurance is a process of monitoring and evaluating what goes on in schools according to stipulated guidelines geared towards bringing an improvement in teaching and learning.

In her remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Dr Ifeoma Agbaizu listed funding, wrong conception of what quality assurance is all about and insecurity as some of the challenges negating effective quality assurance drive.

Dame Chinyere Mbakwe, ASUBEB Board Member representing Private Schools, called for the inclusion of private schools in the distribution of federal educational largesse to state schools, as they are also part of the system.

In a vote of thanks, Dame Eunice Mesigo, a member of the Anambra State Education Commission, appreciated Governor Soludo for the transformation he has brought to the state and the education sector.

The highlight of the meeting was the distribution of copies of the National Education Quality Assurance Policy and Implementation Guidelines booklets to the Commissioner and educational stakeholders in Anambra State.

LASBERY COLLEGE HOLDS INDUCTION/OATH-TAKING CEREMONY FOR 22 PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

.. Solicits for Infrastructure at the Institution's Perm site from Soludo, Others

By Uzo Ugwunze



The Lasbery College of Health Technology (LCHT), Ogidi, has called on Governor Chukwuma Soludo, members of the Anglican Communion and other private individuals to assist the college with funds for infrastructural development at the institution's permanent site opposite Anglican Girls Secondary School, Ogidi.

The call was made at Iyienu Ogidi, Idemili North LGA, during the 3rd Induction/Oath Taking ceremony, where 22 outgoing students of the Department of Pharmacy Technician, Lasbery College of Health Technology, Ogidi, were inducted into the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (PCN).

Speaking shortly after the induction ceremony, the Head of Department, Department of Pharmacy Technician, Pharm Ezedum Chika Peace, commended Governor Chukwuma Soludo for the progress the Anambra State Government has made because of the development in the education sector and massive infrastructural development ongoing in various parts of the state.

Pharm Ezedum pleaded with His Excellency, Governor Soludo, as a lover of education to assist the faith-based institution owned by the Anglican Diocese on the Niger and presently domiciled within the Iyienu Mission Hospital facility by building classrooms, administrative and hostel blocks at their newly acquired permanent site to enable them to admit more students.

Today is the graduation/oath-taking ceremony for our students who have spent three years here, passed their Nigerian Pre-Certification Examination and are being inducted into the Reformed Forum for Pharmacy Technicians in Nigeria (RFPTN) by the PCN. I am proud of my students.

"We thank our Bishop on the Niger, Rt Rev. Dr Owen Nwokolo; Mama Niger, Dr Elsie Nwokolo; the Management Board; and Staff. We also want to use this opportunity to thank Governor Soludo for his good works ongoing in the state, especially in the education sector.

"We also need the intervention of our Solution Governor, Soludo, at Lasbery College of Health Technology, Ogidi permanent site, an empty land opposite Ogidi Girls, where we intend to start building. We are soliciting for financial assistance from friends and well-wishers of the Diocese on the Niger to come to our aid and to support us spiritually, financially and infrastructurally.

"Developing and moving into the perm site will provide more space for learning. Presently, we are only allowed to admit 50 students, but when we move into our permanent site, we can get approval to admit up to 100 students in the Pharmacy Technology department," said Mrs Ezedum.

Earlier, the Acting Provost, Kosisochukwu Amamgbo, who was represented by the Acting Registrar, Rev. Chukwunonso Okonkwo, in a welcome address, advised the inductees to embrace challenges as opportunities for growth and never be afraid to seek guidance and support when needed.

Moreover, the Registrar, PCN Pharm Ibrahim Babashehu Ahmed, who was represented by PCN Anambra State Officer, Pharm Mrs Fechi Njoku, stated, "Certified Pharmacy Technicians are expected to find fulfilment in their chosen endeavour, strictly adhering to the code of conduct and other regulations of the PCN. They could find fulfilment in hospital pharmacy, community pharmacy, core public service concerns, academia and regulations, among others. Remember, what makes you a pharmacy technician is your registration certificate and renewal of your annual permit.

According to the National President of RFPTN, Pharm. Tech. Shagba Humphrey T., who was represented by Pharm. Tech. Ugochukwu Ohazuruike Chairman, RFPTN Anambra State Chapter, my advice to fresh students is for them to do more observations and be inquisitive about details to become more proactive in the discharge of diligent duties. Do not forget that your supervision will be done by pharmacists and/or delegated senior pharmacy technicians.

"Under the RFPTN, we are optimistic that as Pharmacy Technicians groom in unity under this forum, we will be able to foster a lasting solution to challenges faced by Pharmacy Technicians in Nigeria using our strong advocacy. The association has been ardent about optimisation of the welfare of its members and supporting the PCN in meeting the quest for attainment of global best pharmaceutical practices," he said.

Some of the inductees, Pharm Tech Somto Mbah (Outgoing Students Union Government President), Pharm Tech Mmaduabuchi Precious Izuobi (a 1st Class Graduate), and Nwoke Adaora Jenifer, who were all award recipients for their outstanding performances during their school days, were grateful to God and the college for helping them fulfil their academic dreams. They pledged to shine the light they had gotten wherever they found themselves in their chosen career.

Moreover, some parents of the inductees, Sir Leo Iloegbunam Anyanwu, Mr Ignatius Izuobi and his wife, Ifeoma, in their separate speeches, thanked God who provided the resources to fend for their children's school fees, saying that they have no regrets because their children made them proud by graduating in flying colours.

Highlights of the event were the Oath Taking, Induction Lecture by Pharm. Ukpoma Solace C., Cutting of Graduation Cake and the Send Forth Party/Gift Presentation to the outgoing HOD Emeritus, Pharm. Ugoji John Obiajulu, who was the pioneer HOD of the Pharmacy Technology Department in Lasbery College of Health Technology, Ogidi.

CLO COMMISERATES WITH VICTIMS OF ONITSHA FIRE INCIDENTS

By Juliana Nwachukwu/Nkiru Anakor/Ngozi Okoli

Anambra State Chairman of Civil Liberties Organization (CLO), Evangelist Vincent Ezekwueme has conveyed his heartfelt sympathy for the victims of recent two fire incidents that happened on Tuesday, March 25th,2025 at the electronics section of Iweka Road Onitsha and at a Plaza at Ifejika Street near Main Market in which millions of naira worth of goods and properties were destroyed by the ravaging fire.

Ezekwueme stated this in a press release made available to the Newsmen in Onitsha. "It is very unfortunate and painful that the fire outbreaks happened at this period of hardship, hyperinflation and insecurity, just as Onitsha Drugs Market is suffering over the closure of their markets by NAFDAC.

We appeal to the affected traders to have absolute faith, hope and trust in God, who is capable and willing to restore their lost wealth at his own time.

There is no doubt in our minds that God will console them and give them grace and fortitude to bear and endure the loss. CLO will continue to pray and identify with them at this despicable and devastating period.

We appeal to the Anambra State and federal governments to devise means of curtailing incessant fire outbreaks in the country and introduce more proactive safety measures by ensuring functional fire services and compulsory provisions of fire-fighting equipment in all markets, plazas, business premises and houses by landlords.



CLO equally calls on both Anambra State and federal governments, federal and state emergency management agencies, the political class and public-spirited individuals to come to the aid of the affected traders at this trying and painful period.

"It is worthy of note that a friend is known in times of trouble, trials, tribulations and sufferings, not in merriment and comforts."

ANAMBRA STATE UNVEILS LOCALLY MADE LEATHER SHOES AND BAGS

By Ebele Iyke Odili/Amaka Isikala

The unveiling of locally made leather shoes and bags under the NancyShoesCraft brand took centre stage at Orly Road, Ekwulobia, Aguata Local Government Area, Anambra State.

The event marked the brand's eighth anniversary and the official launch of Anambra shoes by Nancyshoescraft, reinforcing the state's commitment to promoting indigenous industries.

Representing Anambra State Governor, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, the Chief of Protocol to the Governor, Mr Chinedu Nwoye, highlighted the significance of NancyShoesCraft as a product of the state's One Youth, Two Skills initiative. The youth empowerment programme was designed to equip young people with entrepreneurial skills, reducing reliance on white-collar jobs.

Today, we celebrate one of the beneficiaries of this programme who has successfully built a thriving business. NancyShoesCraft not only produces high-quality footwear but also manufactures leather products such as bags, belts, and caps. We are proud of Nancy's achievements and encourage other young entrepreneurs to follow her example," Nwoye stated.

The Commissioner for Commerce and Industry, Mr Christian Udechukwu, represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Chinedu Ike (Esq), reiterated the government's commitment to supporting small businesses.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, he acknowledged the ministry's financial support and grants that have contributed to the brand's expansion.



"Nancy is a beneficiary of initiatives implemented in partnership with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN). The impact is visible in the company's growth, both in equipment and operational scale. Our government is dedicated to helping small businesses scale up into recognisable brands that can compete in malls and markets worldwide," Ike said.

Also speaking at the event, the Executive Assistant to the governor on commerce and industry, Mr Chuka Okeke, commended the creativity and innovation embedded in NancyShoesCraft's products. He emphasised that Made-in-Anambra brands are expected to uphold high standards.

"When a product originates from Anambra, customers can trust that they are receiving the best. We are here to encourage this brand to grow even further," Chuka stated.

In her remarks, the General Managing Director of NancyShoesCraft, Nancy Ifeoma Chidebe, expressed her gratitude to Governor Soludo for his unwavering commitment to supporting homegrown enterprises. She recounted the brand's journey from a passion-driven dream to a thriving business that has made significant contributions to Nigeria's leather industry.

"What started as a dream has grown into a business that meets international standards while showcasing the pride and identity of Anambra State. I am proud to say that I am an employer of labour, with no fewer than 80 staff members on my payroll," she said.

Other notable speakers at the event included the Director in charge of Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises, Mrs Chito Onwuzulike, Brand Ambassador of NancyShoesCraft, Dr Nonso Okafor (Smart), and the Chairman/CEO of Naira Rice, Anambra State. They all commended Governor Soludo's efforts in youth empowerment, infrastructure development, and economic growth in the state.

The launch of Anambrashoes by NancyShoesCraft's Made-in-Anambra products signifies a major milestone in the state's industrial growth, reinforcing its mission to support and promote local businesses on a global scale.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION DONATES OVER 1,000 EXERCISE BOOKS TO SCHOOLS IN IFITE AWKA





By Obiageli Nwankwo

In honour of Mothering Sunday, the Ministry of Education has donated over 1,000 copies of 60-page exercise books to schools in Ifite Awka. The books were generously provided by Dr Nonye Soludo, the wife of the state governor, and Senator Oluremi Bola Tinubu, the First Lady of Nigeria.

The schools that received the donations were St. Lucy Primary School and Igwebueze Primary School 1, both located in Ifite Awka. The presentation took place at the state Secretariat Complex in Awka, with Dr Ifeoma Agbaizu, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, representing the Commissioner of Education, Prof. Ngozi Chuma-Udeh.

Dr Agbaizu emphasised that the donation was a gesture in commemoration of Mothering Sunday, highlighting the administration's commitment to fostering a supportive environment for quality education. She encouraged the students to dedicate themselves to their studies, ensuring a brighter future for themselves, the state, and the nation.

Head teachers of both schools, Mrs Atuenyi Florence of St Lucy Primary School and Mrs Okafor Esther of Igwebueze Primary School 1, expressed their gratitude, noting that this was a historic gesture for their institutions. The ceremony concluded with the formal presentation of the books by Dr Agbaizu.

ALL SOLUDO SUPPORT GROUPS ENDORSE GOVERNOR SOLUDO FOR A SECOND TERM IN OFFICE.

.... AS AGBODIKE, OBI, EZEAKA, AND OTHERS DISPLAY SUPPORT



By Michael Ezenwata

The All Soludo Support Groups, comprising over 50 independent pro-Soludo supporters, have unanimously given a go-ahead to Governor Chukwuma Soludo to contest for the 2025 governorship election in the state to sustain his enviable good governance.

The group under the leadership of the Chief of Protocol to the Governor and Deputy Chief of Staff, Chief Chinedu Nwoye, and the Special Adviser to the Governor on Youth Empowerment, Dr Nelson Omenugha, Secretary, is demanding that the governor deserves a second term in office given his exemplary leadership and unprecedented achievements.

In his acceptance speech, Governor Soludo pledged his allegiance to his campaign promise towards pursuing one common agenda and one people-oriented policy framework to drive home development in the state.

According to the governor, his administration views the state as one large constituency which is being developed simultaneously to achieve his African Dubai/Taiwan status for the state. He acknowledged the support groups for asking him to recontest for a second term in office, using their resources to push their demands.

Governor Soludo promised not to disappoint them and expects that all hands should be on deck to support his vision to develop the state.

In her message to the occasion, the State Woman Leader of APGA, Hon. Esther Onyekesi, promised to galvanise women to support the governor's re-election bid during the November 8th governorship election in the state.

The State Commissioner for Power and Water Resources and the Coordinator, Soludo Fans Club, Julius Chukwuemeka, an engineer, appreciated the good works of the governor and his eligibility to go for a second term in office.

On his part, the State Commissioner for Finance, Mr Izuchukwu Okafor, highlighted the financial prudence of the governor and his enviable achievements in office.

The Chairman of the Post Primary Schools Service Commission, Prof.Nkechi Ikediugwu, on behalf of the Commission, endorsed Governor Soludo for a second term in office.

Contributing, an APGA chieftain, Chief Surplus Ewuzie, urged the party faithful to ensure the governor's victory at the November 8th governorship election in the state.

Some dignitaries that graced the occasion in support of the governor's second term bid included the Right Honourable Dr Paschal Agbodike, representing Ihiala Federal Constituency in the Federal House of Representatives; the "Igwe' of APGA Chief Ben Obi; and the Chairman of the Local Government Service Commission, Vin Ezeaka (Esq), among others.

ANAMBRA WEST BOSS NNAZOR INAUGURATES IFITE-ANAM SECURITY AND FINANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



By Felix Igboanugo

In a significant move towards strengthening security and financial management in the Ifite-Anam community, in Anambra West LGA, the Executive Chairman, Mr Fidelis Nnazor, yesterday, April 3rd 2025, inaugurated the Ifite-Anam Security and Finance Management Committee.

The event, which took place at the Local Council Secretariat, Nzam, was attended by key stakeholders, community leaders, and government representatives and marked a pivotal step in fostering safety, accountability, and economic stability in the Ifite-Anam community.

During the inauguration ceremony, Mr Nnazor emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts between the government and local communities in driving effective security measures in Anambra West LGA.

He stressed that the committee is tasked with enhancing security measures within the community, collaborating with law enforcement agencies, and ensuring the safety of lives and property while also overseeing financial matters to ensure transparency and accountability.

Today marks a significant step towards ensuring the safety and financial accountability that our people deserve. This committee is not just a symbol of governance; it is a commitment to the welfare and security of the citizens of Ifite-Anam," he stated.

Anambra West boss assured the committee of the government's unwavering support in providing necessary resources and guidance and urged them to discharge their duties with integrity and dedication, as their role is crucial in driving sustainable development within the community.

He further urged the committee members to work swiftly to identify vulnerabilities, devise practical solutions, and engage the community in participatory security monitoring.

The President General of Ifite Community, Mr Chukwujekwu Cyprian Offordile, commended the initiative and expressed confidence that the committees would contribute significantly to the growth and security of the Ifite Anam community.

The ceremony concluded with the swearing-in of the committee members, who pledged to uphold the values of integrity, accountability, and community engagement in their roles.

Indeed, with this inauguration, Ifite Anam takes a bold step towards progress, reinforcing its commitment to security and financial accountability.

AKSHIA UNDERTAKES TWO-DAY STUDY TOUR OF ASIA

By Chisom Okafor





The Akwa Ibom State Health Insurance Agency (AKSHIA) has embarked on a two-day study tour of the Anambra State Health Insurance Agency (ASHIA) to gain insight into its operations and best practices.

Leading the delegation, AKSHIA's Director of Human Resources, Mrs Hannah Nta, expressed appreciation for ASHIA's warm reception and openness to knowledge sharing. She explained that the visit aimed to assess ASHIA's departmental structures, resource management strategies, and service delivery processes to enhance the effectiveness of health insurance in Akwa Ibom State.

Welcoming the team, ASHIA's Managing Director, Dr Simeon Onyemaechi, assured them of an engaging and practical learning experience covering key aspects such as health insurance administration, claims management, and the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF). He noted that ASHIA had hosted similar study visits from over 14 states due to its success in health insurance implementation.

Dr Onyemaechi provided an overview of global and national health insurance frameworks, highlighting the roles of key institutions like the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) and the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA). He emphasised that the study tour would go beyond theory, incorporating hands-on sessions and field visits to healthcare providers for firsthand experience of the system in action.

The knowledge gained from the visit is expected to help AKSHIA refine its health insurance strategies, ultimately improving healthcare delivery in Akwa Ibom State.