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ANAMBRA NEWS AT A GLANCE



PRESIDENT BOLA AHMED TINUBU'S STATE VISIT

WELCOME ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR CHUKWUMA CHARLES SOLUDO, CFR



On behalf of the government and great people of Anambra State, I am greatly honoured to welcome you, our dear President, to Anambra State – the Light of the Nation! Nnoo Asiwaju! Nnoo Omenife Awka! Welcome to Anambra, the land of enterprise, knowledge, and leadership. Welcome to the home to many of Nigeria's and Africa's founding fathers and leaders past—Zik of Africa, Nwafor-Orizu, Odumegwu Ojukwu, Alex Ekwueme, Edwin Ume-Ezeoke, Kenneth Dike, Margaret Ekpo, Chinua Achebe, Pius Okigbo, Chuba Okadigbo, etc. Welcome to the home of Africa's statesman, Chief Emeka Anyaoku. Welcome to the home of the Cardinals—Arinze and Okpaleke, as well as Blessed Iwene Tansi. Yes, welcome to the home of West Africa's largest market and automobile hub as well as home to thousands of Africa's shining entrepreneurs and

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SPEECH BY PRESIDENT BOLA AHMED TINUBU, GCFR

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS STATE VISIT AND GRAND RECEPTION BY ANAMBRA STATE

Anambra Kwenu!
Anambra Kwenu!!
Igbo Kwezuenu!!!

About 30 months ago, I stood at this Venue as Candidate Bola Ahmed Tinubu. In less than two years since my assumption of office as your president, I am delighted to be back on a state visit and to commission some legacy projects by your state government. I come as a friend to the great people of Anambra and the Southeast. I salute your enterprise, innovation, and unwavering commitment to progress. Anambra has long stood as a beacon of



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TINUBU'S STATE VISIT AND SOLUDO'S PRAYERS TO END SOUTH-EAST MARGINALISATION

By Law Mefor

The goal of Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo, CFR, is always to win with his solutions. Soludo wisely took advantage of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's state visit to Anambra State on May 8, to address the pressing issues of the South-East Geopolitical Zone's marginalisation.

President Tinubu, who referred to Governor Soludo as a friend, made a solid commitment to resolve all of the marginalisation issues brought up by the governor.

Governor Soludo praised President Tinubu for his Pan-Nigerian disposition, which was demonstrated when he appointed Ben Akabueze, an Anambra son, as Commissioner for Budget and Planning while serving as Governor of Lagos. He also thanked Tinubu for appointing numerous

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EDITORIAL: SOLUDO'S HALLMARK OF ACHIEVEMENTS UNLEASHES TINUBU'S PRESIDENTIAL COMMENDATION AND ACCEPTABILITY

By Uche Kalu

May 8, 2025, marked a historic milestone in Anambra State's annals. Created from the old Anambra State (now Enugu) on August 27, 1991, the state is known for its rich human and natural resources, encapsulated in its slogan 'Light of the Nation' – a shift from the original 'Home for All'. Since its inception, Anambra State has been led by several notable governors and administrators, namely Joseph Abulu, Mike Attah, Rufai Garba, Emmanuel Ukaegbu, Chukwuemeka Ezeife(late), Chinwoke Mbadinuju (late), Dr Chris Ngige, Mr Peter Obi, Dame Virginia Etiaba, Dr Willie Obiano and Prof Chukwuma Soludo.

For over three decades, Anambra State operated without a befitting Government House and Governor's Lodge, a longstanding infrastructure gap. However, this jinx was finally broken when President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, visited the state to commission the newly completed Government House and Lodge, alongside other landmark projects initiated by Governor Chukwuma Soludo.

The commissioning ceremony marked a significant milestone for Anambra State, underscoring Soludo's commitment to transforming the state into a modern hub, with ambitions to replicate the grandeur of Dubai and Taiwan. The development signals a new era of progress and development for the state.

The new Government House/Lodge in Anambra State is a monumental achievement, cementing Governor Soludo's legacy as a trailblazer. Spanning several hectares, the complex boasts about 35 buildings, including offices, residential quarters, a clinic, a sports centre, a healthy living office and a 1,225-seat-capacity hall. Under Soludo's leadership, Anambra is poised for progress, driven by his vision to transform the state into an "African Dubai-Taiwan". Moreover, this ambitious project showcases Soludo's commitment to modernising Anambra's infrastructure and setting a new standard for governance.

President Bola Tinubu arrived in Anambra State on a one-day working visit, where he was warmly received by throngs of enthusiastic residents at the Chinua Achebe International Cargo Airport in Umueri. The president's agenda included commissioning several landmark projects, notably the new Government House/Lodge, the Emeka Anyaoku Institute for International Studies and Diplomacy, Nnamdi Azikiwe University in Awka, and the Solution Funcity. This high-profile visit highlights the significance of these projects in advancing Anambra's development trajectory.

During the commissioning of the projects, President Tinubu praised Governor Soludo as a visionary leader dedicated to driving infrastructural development in the state. The president noted that Governor Soludo embodies the spirit of service enshrined in the national anthem.

"I am delighted to visit and commission some legacy projects by your state government. I come as a friend to the great people of Anambra State and the Southeast. I commend the Anambra State Government for its proactive efforts to improve security.

"I assure you that the federal government will continue to partner with the state and the Southeast to ensure the safety and security of our people and their future," the president emphasised.

President Tinubu reassured Governor Soludo that Anambra State will not be left behind in terms of development, pledging to address the ecological challenges plaguing the state. This gesture emphasised the president's dedication to supporting Anambra's growth and mitigating the environmental issues affecting its residents.

The president pledged to support Anambra State's development through several key initiatives. These include activating the Onitsha River Port, incorporating the state into the railway line master plan, and exploring its vast gas reserves. Additionally, the president vowed to enhance security in the state and address critical infrastructure needs, such as rehabilitating the Anambra-Kogi State Road to facilitate easier access to Abuja and completing the Onitsha-Enugu motorway, among other priority projects.

He lauded Governor Soludo's remarkable achievements within his three-year tenure, emphasising the need to sustain these gains to align with his national progressive agenda and promote national unity. The president reaffirmed his commitment to tackling insurgency and fostering collaboration among Nigerians to drive the country's progress and development.

In his address of welcome, Governor Soludo said, "President Tinubu's visit to Anambra is historic and consequential; not just to commission projects, we have over 500 km of roads, flyovers, and bridges completed and awaiting commissioning, among others.

"We are very strategic in our choice of projects deserving the president's attention. What you commission today is mere symbolism of the audacity of our dreams for a new Anambra State. Like the Americans would say, and I have repeatedly affirmed with Ndi Anambra, you've not seen anything yet.

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"It is an agenda with a vision of Anambra as an African Dubai and Taiwan Silicon Valley, the best axis of sustainable prosperity, with a 50-year master plan, which we are in a haste to lay the foundation for. In simple terms, we are determined to change the trajectory of Anambra from a departure lounge to a destination of choice.

"We know the state of Nigeria's economy with all its unsustainable dysfunctionalities. When you assumed office, you dared to tame the Atlantic Ocean in Lagos, and now, you are systematically getting the economy to work again.

"In less than two years, the important building blocks are already falling into place. We thank the Southeast Development Commission for also appointing many Ndi Anambra into your administration. Of course, your Pan-Nigerian disposition was evident when, as Governor of Lagos, you appointed an Anambra son, Ben Nwabueze, as your Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning.

"Here in Anambra, one of my permanent secretaries is from Osun State, and another one is from Abia. During the recruitment of 8,115 teachers, we did not care which state you came from because the interest of an Anambra child is to be taught by the best teacher in the world, not by the incompetent teacher from the village.

"We are deeply grateful for several road projects currently being executed by your administration that benefit Anambra State, running into hundreds of billions of naira, especially the Enugu-Onitsha Road.

"We appreciate your Minister of Works, who came recently to flag off and has been working tirelessly to get this project on track: the rehabilitation of Onitsha-Owerri Road, phase 2 access roads to the 2nd Niger bridge, and the rehabilitation of Oba-Nnewi Road, section 2, in Anambra State. When completed, there would be important game changes for our people.

"Part of our transport master plan for Ndi Anambra is to dualise all the trunk A roads in Anambra, both state and federal, and so far, we are spending over N170 billion on sundry federal roads, including ambitious dualisation projects.

"No doubt the partnership between Anambra State and the federal government is working well; we benefit fully from all federal programmes, including education, ICT, agriculture, health, infrastructure, flooding/ecological response, and social interventions, among others.

"The federal government rewarded Anambra 500,000 dollars as the Southeast regional champion and 700,000 dollars as the national champion in primary healthcare for 2024. We are benefiting in the area of transformation.

"There is an abandoned strategic federal road project that links Anambra to Kogi State; upon completion, the journey between Anambra and Abuja might be shortened to 3 hours from 9 hours. We believed that these things would systematically get your attention and be addressed.

"We are prepared to support him in every way possible to succeed and to excel. Our support for Tinubu is rooted in history, principle and ideology. Both of us served in government between 2003 and 2007, as the President's Economic Adviser and later as Governor of the Central Bank/member of the National Economic Council.

"I greatly admired the principled stance of the then-Governor of Lagos and now President Tinubu. On federalism, he was our professor at every NEC meeting.

"As the foremost progressive party in Nigeria, APGA is ideologically and strategically aligned with the Centre. So far, the progressives are working well together! It is indeed time for all progressives, federalists and all parties with social-democratic, centrist, and left-of-centre credentials to unite—to advance the purpose of a united and progressive Nigeria. Mr President should lead us in this new movement," Governor Soludo noted.

Governor Soludo expressed gratitude to President Tinubu for commissioning several landmark projects undertaken by his administration and extended a gesture of fellowship, seeking the President's support for his development agenda. He requested the president's intervention in addressing the state's ecological challenges, harnessing the potential of the Onitsha River Port, integrating Anambra into the national rail network, and exploring the state's gas reserves, among other key initiatives.

Highlighting his administration's significant achievements in empowering youths through the One Youth 2 Skills initiative, alongside efforts to boost other sectors of the state's economy, he emphasised that his government is on track to fulfil its campaign promises, underscoring the administration's commitment to delivering tangible results.

During the visit, traditional rulers from the state's 179 communities conferred the esteemed chieftaincy title of "Dike Si Mba Anambra" on President Tinubu. The ceremony was performed by Igwe Chidubem Iweka, Chairman of the State Traditional Rulers Council and traditional ruler of Obosi, alongside other prominent traditional leaders.

The event drew notable attendees, including former Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku, who praised President Tinubu for commissioning landmark projects undertaken by Governor Soludo's administration. Other prominent guests included Sir Emeka Offor, government officials, members of the media, and other dignitaries.

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WELCOME ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR CHUKWUMA CHARLES SOLUDO, CFR

innovators. Welcome to Anambra, the land of infinite possibilities! Yes, welcome to Anambra, reputed over the past three months, as the safest state in Nigeria! Finally, welcome to Anambra, the land of the progressives!

Your visit to Anambra State today is historic and consequential. The last state visit by a President was in 2012, ostensibly to commission a brewery and another private enterprise. This visit is not just to commission projects. We have over 500km of roads, flyovers/bridges completed and waiting for commissioning; five new general hospitals and world class trauma centre completed and waiting for commissioning; smart schools and water projects waiting for commissioning; new markets and bus terminal; etc. Previously, we have insisted that the users of our roads and projects should be the ones to commission them—keke and bus drivers, farmers, traders, etc. We are strategic in our choice of projects deserving your attention. Today, Mr. President, you have unveiled two mini-cities (the brochure for this event describes them fully), the 8-lane boulevard, the tower of light and monument of heroes—as symbolisms of the audacity of our dreams for a new Anambra. Like the Americans would say, and as we repeatedly affirm to Ndi Anambra, "you ain't seen nothing yet"!



Ours is an agenda with a deadline. With a vision of Anambra as African Dubai-Taiwan-Silicon Valley (ADTS)— next axis of sustainable prosperity– and with a 50 Year Master Plan (which I chaired the drafting), we are in a haste to lay solid foundations. In simple terms, we are determined to change the trajectory of Anambra from a departure lounge to a destination of choice (see the brochure for this event for basic outline of the road travelled so far and parts of the road ahead—- we don't need to repeat them here for want of time). But what is unmistakable is that Anambra is clearly on the rise.

We are here also to celebrate you, Mr. President, and we will demonstrate our appreciation shortly. Thank you for all the hard work you put in to move Anambra and Nigeria forward. We know the state of Nigerian economy with all its unsustainable dysfunctionalities when you assumed office. You had the courage to tame the Atlantic Ocean in Lagos and now, you are systematically getting the economy to work again. There is still a lot of work ahead but there is no doubt that in less than two years, important building blocks are already falling into place. We urge you to stay the course, Mr. President. Many thanks also for appointing many Ndi Anambra into your administration, especially the appointment of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Amb Bianca Ojukwu and MD, Southeast Development Commission, Mark Okoye. Your Pan-Nigerian disposition was evident when as Governor of Lagos, you appointed an Anambra son, Ben Akabueze, your commissioner for Budget and Planning. Similarly, here in Anambra, one of my new Permanent Secretaries is from Osun State—Bayo Ojeyinka. We are deeply grateful for several road projects currently being executed by your administration that benefit Anambra state, running into hundreds of billions of Naira especially the Enugu-Onitsha Road, Rehabilitation of Onitsha-Owerri Road, Phase 2b access road to Second Niger bridge, rehabilitation of Oba-Nnewi Road Section II in Anambra, etc. When completed, they will be important gamechangers for our people. We are complementing your efforts. Part of our transport masterplan for Anambra is to dualize all trunk A roads (state and federal) in the state, and so far, we are spending over N170 billion on sundry federal roads including ambitious dualization projects.

No doubt the partnership between Anambra State and the federal government works well. We benefit fully from all federal programmes including education, health, ICT, agriculture, infrastructure, flooding/ecological response, social interventions, etc. A few months ago, the federal government with donor agencies rewarded Anambra with a cash prize of $500,000 as Southeast regional champion and $700,000 as national champion in primary health care national challenge for 2024.

To leapfrog the process of our transformation, there are however a few critical areas we would need further federal interventions to unlock huge opportunities. Anambra remains, possibly, the gully erosion capital of the world, with one-third of our land mass under persistent threat and the resource requirements to deal with this are far beyond the capacity of a state government. We are already spending tens of billions of Naira on this but a lot more is urgently needed. The Southeast, and Anambra in particular, is bypassed by the national gas masterplan despite abundant reserves of natural gas. We are not part of the national rail system. The Onitsha River port, commissioned by President Shehu Shagari in 1982 remains a proposal ostensibly because the federal government has been unable to undertake the required dredging. Only Asiwaju, the man who tamed the Atlantic, can break this 43-year-old jinx so that badges from Onne and other seaports can easily discharge at Onitsha. There is an abandoned strategic federal road project that links Anambra with Kogi state. Upon completion, the journey between Anambra/Southeast and Abuja might be shortened to about three hours —down from the current nine hours! The list is long, and we are convinced that systematically, these issues will be addressed.

Mr. President, fellow Nigerians, beyond Anambra, Nigeria must survive and prosper. For the sake of Nigeria and future generations, President Tinubu must succeed, and we are prepared to support him in every way possible to succeed and excel. Our support for President Tinubu is rooted in history, principle, and ideology. Both of us served in government (2003-2007) and as President's economic adviser and later Governor of the Central Bank/member of the National Economic Council, I greatly admired the principled stance of then Governor of Lagos and now President Tinubu, on federalism. He was our professor on federalism at every NEC meeting and he fought the federal government, at great costs, to promote principles of federalism. Of course, his political party, first the AD, and later AC, ACN and now APC— consistently professed progressivism. On my part, I am an unrepentant federalist and centre progressive. Before I joined the party in 2013, it took me 12 months of review and reflection on the Manifesto of the All-Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) which was registered in 2002 as the first party to profess "progressivism" (at least in its name), and a commitment to federalist principles. That's why even when I joined the party in 2013 and I was disqualified from contesting its primaries, I stayed put on ideological grounds and principle. Today, I am its national leader and in Anambra, we are intentionally giving our party an ideological soul with policies and programmes strongly rooted in centre-progressivism. While laying the meta-level foundations as leaders in commerce, industry, technology and leisure, we are (in the traditions of Awoism and M.I. Okpara) building the people sustainably— through absolutely free and qualitative education from primary to senior secondary leading to lowest out of school children in Nigeria with bursary awards for tertiary students soon; free antenatal, free delivery services benefiting hundreds of thousands of women; training and empowering thousands of youth-preneurs as millionaires; distribution of millions of palm and coconut seedlings set to lift hundreds of thousands permanently out of poverty; prioritizing infrastructure to uplift agrarian communities; exempting the poor and vulnerable from taxes and levies; etc. The people are better and happy. In Anambra we are firmly and comfortably progressives.

In 2011 (before I joined in 2013), APGA took an official position to support and work with the political party/government at the centre. Indeed, in that year, APGA adopted the sitting president then as its presidential candidate. That policy has not changed. Coincidentally at this moment in history, the party/government at the Centre is one that also professes "progressivism". As the foremost progressive party in Nigeria, APGA is ideologically and strategically aligned with the Centre. So far, the progressives are working well, together! It is indeed time for all progressives, federalists and all parties with social-democratic, centrist, and left-of centre credentials to unite—to advance the purpose of a united and progressive Nigeria. Mr. President should lead us in this new movement.

Finally, thank you again Mr. President for this great honour to Ndi Anambra with this historic state visit. The Presidential lodge is ready, and we are looking forward to your next visit. Perhaps, it won't be a bad idea to relocate your office and operate from Anambra for a week or two. May God continue to bless you and may Nigeria continue to win!

God bless Anambra State!
God bless Asiwaju, our own Dikesimba!!
God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!!

SPEECH BY PRESIDENT BOLA AHMED TINUBU, GCFR, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS STATE VISIT AND GRAND RECEPTION BY ANAMBRA STATE

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commerce, intellect, and cultural strength — a pride not only to the Southeast but to Nigeria.

My visit today bears a bold testament to parts of my speech during my campaign here. I recall vividly telling you then, "Charles Soludo, your son...is still my friend. I salute his vision. He is a brilliant man. He has the brain. He is a thinker. He knows the way. We will work together inclusively. When I become the president, Soludo will be one of those advisors who will bring prosperity back to you". From what I have seen and heard, it is evident that a solid foundation is being laid, and Anambra is indeed on the rise. Charles Soludo has been my friend since 2003, and I can also confirm that we are working together for a better Anambra and Nigeria.

I have just commissioned two landmark projects—the Solution Fun City and the Government House mini-city as part of the initial steps towards your audacious vision of Anambra as African-Dubai-Taiwan-Silicon Valley (ADTS). Together with the massive infrastructural transformation and human capital development, these are bold statements of vision and what leadership can achieve in such a short time. A few years ago, Dubai was largely a desert. Today, it is a global hub because one man dared to dream. I remember when Soludo wanted to consolidate the Nigerian banks; many said it was impossible. It was done, and Nigeria became better for it. I also recall when we dared to tame the Atlantic Ocean, and many naysayers doubted it. But we made it happen. Anambra has huge potential, and with Soludo, we can all work together to fast-track the vision.

Let me commend the Government of Anambra State for its proactive efforts in improving security. I wish to assure you that the Federal Government will continue to partner with the State and the Southeast to secure our people and their future.

I have noted the state's various challenges and your request for assistance and partnership. We will continue to partner with your state to deliver shared prosperity to Ndi Anambra and all Nigerians.

As your president, I am pleased to assure you that the nation's state is strong and getting stronger by the day under our Renewed Hope Agenda. We met near-insolvent public finance, a decades-old monster of unsustainable multiple subsidies, a chaotic and debilitating forex regime, etc. Like we tamed the Atlantic in Lagos, many of these monsters have been tackled: petroleum and forex subsidies have been tamed; macroeconomic stability has returned within predictable bounds; tax reforms are on the way, etc. These reforms are difficult, yes, but inevitable. Everyone had long recognised their imperatives. Courage and our collective action were required to confront them to lay a strong foundation for a more stable, prosperous and inclusive economy. Already, we are seeing renewed investor confidence, expanding opportunities, and targeted support for small businesses, especially in the tech and manufacturing sectors where Anambra is already excelling. Agriculture is receiving massive attention, and the results are beginning to show.

We have renegotiated and passed a new minimum wage into law as part of our effort to cushion the effect of these reforms on the working class. I am particularly happy that the Government of Anambra State has fully implemented the new minimum wage, and I understand that you are paying above the National minimum.

We are working to build critical infrastructure — roads, rail, and power — and ensure that every corner of Nigeria, including Anambra, feels the impact of governance that works. The Presidential Power Initiative and the ongoing digital economy drive will open more doors for the resourceful people of this State.

We continue to plead with Nigerians for their patience and understanding. We call on all patriots and progressives to rise and continue to work hard every day for the greatness of our dear country. We have no other country but Nigeria. We must make it great as the pride of the black race.

Before I conclude, let me thank the government and the great people of Anambra State for your warm hospitality. In particular, I feel deeply honoured by the conferment of a Chieftaincy title by all the traditional rulers of Anambra State on behalf of the State. In 2005, the traditional ruler of Awka, HRH Gibson Nwosu (Eze Uzu II), conferred on me the title of OMENIFE AWKA. To have ALL the traditional rulers of Anambra confer another title on me today is not only historic but one which I will greatly treasure for the rest of my life. Thank you to the traditional rulers.

Thank you, Ndi Anambra.
Many of my friends are from Anambra state, and I have seen many of them today. Going forward, we are not just friends: I am now a bona fide son of the soil—one of you, your own son! Maybe my friend and your governor, Charles Soludo, should find me a plot of land for my retirement home after service.

It is well with Anambra State!

PHOTO SPEAKS

















PHOTO SPEAKS



























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TINUBU'S STATE VISIT AND SOLUDO'S PRAYERS TO END SOUTH-EAST MARGINALISATION

Ndị Anambra to his administration, particularly the appointment of Ambassador Bianca Ojukwu as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Mark Okoye, as MD, Southeast Development Commission. In line with what Tinubu did in Lagos, Soludo said: "Similarly, here in Anambra, one of my new permanent secretaries is from Osun State – Bayo Ojeyinka."

Mr Governor lauded Mr President thusly: "We are deeply grateful for several road projects currently being executed by your administration that benefit Anambra State, running into hundreds of billions of naira, especially the Enugu-Onitsha Road, rehabilitation of Onitsha-Owerri Road, Phase 2b access road to Second Niger Bridge, rehabilitation of Oba-Nnewi Road Section II in Anambra, etc. When completed, they will be important game-changers for our people."

Governor Soludo put forward the following ask-list on the table of President Tinubu: "Anambra remains, possibly, the gully erosion capital of the world, with one-third of our land mass under persistent threat, and the resource requirements to deal with this are far beyond the capacity of a state government. We are already spending tens of billions of naira on this, but much more is urgently needed. The Southeast and Anambra in particular are bypassed by the national gas masterplan despite abundant reserves of natural gas. We are not part of the national rail system. The Onitsha River Port, commissioned by President Shehu Shagari in 1982, remains a proposal, ostensibly because the federal government has been unable to undertake the required dredging. Only Asiwaju, the man who tamed the Atlantic, can break this 43-year-old jinx so that badges from Onne and other seaports can easily discharge at Onitsha. There is an abandoned strategic federal road project that links Anambra with Kogi State. Upon completion, the journey between Anambra/Southeast and Abuja might be shortened to about three hours --- down from the current nine hours! The list is long, and we are convinced that systematically, these issues will be addressed."

President Tinubu, who was bestowed with the chieftaincy title of Dikesimba of Anambra by Ndi Igwe of 179 communities in the state after having commissioned two landmark projects – the Solution Fun City and the Government House Mini-City as part of the initial steps on the path towards your audacious vision of Anambra as African-Dubai-Taiwan-Silicon Valley (ADTS) – made the firm promise to include Anambra State and the South-East in the National Railway Masterplan, a bold step that promises to open new corridors of mobility, trade, and inter-connectivity for the South-East, the South-South, and the rest of the federation.



To promote the budding manufacturing and technological sectors, the president also promised to include Anambra State and the South-East in the country's Gas Pipeline Masterplan, which is a vital tool for industrialization and energy access.

In order to promote trade, mobility, and national unity, President Tinubu approved the completion of the federal highway that connects Anambra and Kogi State. This groundbreaking project would cut the trip time from Anambra to Abuja by roughly four hours.

Under President Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, Governor Soludo also received assurances that reconstruction work will soon begin on the damaged sections of the Enugu–Onitsha Expressway, a long-standing infrastructure issue that is now at last to receive a decisive federal attention.

President Tinubu added a fitting crown to his newly placed hat by promising federal support for ecological investments to address erosion in Anambra State. This is a very appropriate intervention, given that environmental issues of this kind continue to be the state's top existential threat and are beyond any state's means.

It is anticipated that Mr. President's commitment to a sustained strategic cooperation with Anambra State and the South-East for complete security restoration will include Governor Soludo's other crucial request, which is for the federal government to start operating the Onitsha River Port.

For Ndi Anambra and all Ndigbo, President Tinubu's State Visit is a huge victory for justice, inclusivity, and visionary leadership. It also serves as a testament to the strength of the strategic partnership between Anambra and the federal government, constructive engagement, the Soludo administration's purposeful governance, and the governor's dedication to progressivism and welfarism.

A worthy display of friendship, one that goes beyond politics and is based on the common goal of a more united, progressive Nigeria and the unmistakable proof of progressives working together, is President Tinubu's affirmative response to Governor Soludo's ask-list to end the marginalisation of the South-East.

What is more noteworthy than President Tinubu jocularly requesting a piece of land in Anambra State to construct a retirement home after his term as Nigeria's president?

With Asiwaju, a brand-new, prosperous, and united Nigeria is undoubtedly approaching, one in which justice and peace will rule.

THE TINUBU-SOLUDO PARTNERSHIP: A MODEL OF PROGRESSIVISM AND UNITY IN NIGERIA



By Christian Aburime

Politics can be progressive when political leaders choose to work together for a greater cause, despite different party affiliations. That is why in a polity such as Nigeria that is often marked by political discord, the partnership between President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR and Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo, CFR, serves as an instructive pointer to the power of shared vision, ideological alignment, and mutual respect. Notably, their speeches during President Tinubu's state visit to Anambra on May 8, 2025, reveal a deep, positive, and collaborative relationship rooted in progressivism, federalism, and a commitment to Nigeria's prosperity. Indeed, the profound rapport between these two leaders, reflected in their words and actions, highlight a model of political synergy that could shape Nigeria's future.

The bond between Tinubu and Soludo transcends mere political convenience, grounded in a friendship that dates back to 2003. As Tinubu noted in his speech, "Charles Soludo has been my friend since 2003, and I can also confirm that we are working together for a better Anambra and Nigeria." This personal connection is not superficial; it is reinforced by a shared commitment to progressivism and federalism, principles that have defined their respective careers. Governor Soludo, in his welcome address, recalls admiring President Tinubu's "principled stance on federalism" during their time together in the National Economic Council, where Tinubu, as Lagos Governor, was a vocal advocate for state autonomy. This ideological alignment is the bedrock of their partnership, enabling them to navigate Nigeria's complex political landscape with a unified purpose.

Governor Soludo's leadership of the All-Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), which he describes as "the foremost progressive party in Nigeria," also complements President Tinubu's leadership of the All Progressives Congress (APC), a party with progressive roots. Soludo's call for "all progressives, federalists, and all parties with social-democratic, centrist, and left-of-centre credentials to unite" under Tinubu's leadership evinces a vision for a broader coalition. This is not just rhetoric; it reflects a strategic alignment that prioritises Nigeria's unity and development over partisan divides. Their shared history as reformers, Tinubu taming the Atlantic in Lagos and Soludo consolidating Nigeria's banks, further consolidates their mutual respect for bold, catalytic leadership.

Today, the tangible outcomes of their collaboration are evident in Anambra's transformation under Soludo's governance, which Tinubu praised during his visit. The commissioning of landmark projects like Solution Fun City and the Government House mini-city symbolises their joint commitment to Soludo's audacious vision of Anambra as an "African Dubai-Taiwan-Silicon Valley." Tinubu's recognition of these projects as "bold statements of vision and what leadership can achieve" reflects his appreciation for Soludo's strategic approach, which mirrors his own legacy of transformative infrastructure in Lagos

Governor Soludo's speech goes further to highlight the synergy between state and federal efforts, with Anambra benefiting from federal programmes in education, health, ICT, agriculture, and infrastructure. He acknowledges federal road projects worth "hundreds of billions of Naira," such as the Enugu-Onitsha Road and the Second Niger Bridge access road, which complement Anambra's own investments of over N170 billion in federal roads. This cooperative federalism is a hallmark of their partnership, demonstrating how aligned leadership can amplify development outcomes. Tinubu's assurance that "we will continue to partner with your state to deliver shared prosperity" signals a commitment to sustaining this collaboration, particularly in addressing critical challenges like gully erosion and the dormant Onitsha River port.

At the national level, President Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, which tackles longstanding economic dysfunctions like subsidies and forex instability, resonates with Soludo's reformist ethos. Governor Soludo, a former Central Bank Governor, understands the complexities of economic restructuring and praises President Tinubu's courage in addressing these "monsters." His urging the president to "stay the course" reflects not only support but also a shared belief in the necessity of difficult reforms for long-term prosperity. Tinubu, in turn, acknowledges Anambra's implementation of the new minimum wage, a policy aligned with his administration's efforts to cushion reform impacts, further illustrating their policy congruence.

This mutual support extends to human capital development. Soludo's initiatives, free education, free antenatal services, and youth empowerment programmes, echo Tinubu's emphasis on targeted support for small businesses and agriculture. Both leaders recognise that sustainable prosperity requires investing in people, a principle that underpins their progressive ideologies. Tinubu's appointment of Anambra natives like Amb. Bianca Ojukwu and Mr. Mark Okoye to key positions, and Soludo's inclusive appointment of an Osun native as a Permanent Secretary, reflect a pan-Nigerian ethos that strengthens their partnership.

Perhaps the most profound aspect of their speeches is the shared call for unity. Soludo's assertion that "Nigeria must survive and prosper" and his pledge to support Tinubu "in every way possible" reveal a patriotic commitment to national success. Tinubu's appeal to "all patriots and progressives to rise and continue to work hard" complements this vision, framing their partnership as a broader movement for Nigeria's greatness. Their emphasis on progressivism as a unifying force offers a counter-narrative to Nigeria's often fractious politics, suggesting that ideological alignment can bridge regional and partisan divides.

Interestingly, the warmth of their interaction, exemplified by Tinubu's humorous request for a retirement plot in Anambra and his acceptance of a chieftaincy title, adds a human dimension to their political accord. These gestures, coupled with Soludo's invitation for Tinubu to operate from Anambra, definitely reflect a relationship built on trust and camaraderie. They model a leadership style that prioritises collaboration over competition, offering a blueprint for other Nigerian leaders.

In the final analysis, the Tinubu-Soludo partnership goes beyond a political alliance; it is a signifier of hope for a Nigeria yearning for unity, progress, and effective governance. Their shared commitment to progressivism, federalism, and transformative development, as articulated in their speeches, demonstrates the potential of aligned leadership to drive meaningful change. By working together to address Anambra's challenges, advance national reforms, and champion a united Nigeria, President Tinubu and Governor Soludo are laying the foundation for a prosperous future. Their partnership reminds us that when leaders unite around a common vision, the possibilities for Nigeria are indeed endless.

PRESIDENT TINUBU'S ANAMBRA VISIT: ANAMBRA INDIGENES SPEAK



By Michael Ezenwata

The Deputy Chairman of the Anambra State Traditional Rulers Council, representing the Anambra North Senatorial zone, Igwe Prof. Benjamin Okeji, has urged President Ahmed Bola Tinubu to enlarge the scope of federal projects in Anambra State to enhance its developing economy.

In a press statement in Awka on the president's official visit to the state, Igwe Okeji, the traditional ruler of Omasi, listed the state's areas of priority to include the dredging of the River Niger, the full utilisation of the Onitsha River Port, fixing some untarred federal roads in the state, among others. The royal father asked that efforts be made to ensure that a level playing field be provided for all political parties in the state for the forthcoming November 8th governorship election in the state.

In a message to the historic visit of President Tinubu to the state, the state Chairman, Civil Service Commission, Mr Anthony Ezenwaka, on behalf of the commission, welcomed the president to the state to witness the ongoing transformation of the state.

An illustrious son of Awkuzu in Anambra State, Mr Ude Igbelina, urged President Tinubu to use the occasion of his visit to the state to reimburse Anambra State for the money used to fix many federal roads in the state, improve the Onitsha River Port, ensure the completion of the Enugu-Onitsha motorway, and ensure the rehabilitation of the Oba-Nnewi Federal Road, among others.

ANAMBRA RECEIVES PRESIDENT TINUBU IN A GRAND STATE VISIT

... ANYAOKU, SOUTH EAST GOVERNORS, OJUKWU, OFFOR, MEFOR, IWEKA, OKEJI, OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE
...VISIT SEALS SOLUDO'S 2ND TENURE ASPIRATION AS ANYAOKU, OFFOR, AND OTHERS ENDORSE HIM.

By Michael Ezenwata

The state visit of President Ahmed Bola Tinubu has assured the Anambra people that the president has their interests at heart. The president, who met cheering crowds at the Chinua Achebe International Cargo Airport, Umueri; the Emeka Anyaoku Institute for International Studies and Diplomacy, Unizik Awka campus; the Funcity in Awka; the new Government House; and the Governor's Lodge, Awka, among other strategic locations, in a historic speech at the Dr Alex Ekwueme square, Awka, commended Governor Chukwuma Soludo for inviting him to the state to be part of the landmark achievements recorded by his administration.

As fellow progressives, the president assured the governor that he would not leave Anambra State behind development-wise and would address the ecological issues ravaging the state. Other areas he promised to assist the state included activating the Onitsha River Port, including the state in the railway line master plan, exploring the huge gas deposit potentials in the state, assisting the state in tackling its security challenges and addressing the federal roads demands of the state, such as the rehabilitation of the road connecting Anambra State to Kogi State to shorten the drive to Abuja and completing the Onitsha-Enugu motorway, among others.

In an address of welcome, Governor Soludo commended the president for commissioning some landmark projects executed by his administration and extended his hand of fellowship to the president to support his development agenda. The governor sought the intervention of the president in the areas of addressing the ecological disaster of the state and optimising the Onitsha River Port's potential, including.
The state in the national rail line structure, exploring the gas potentials in the state, among others.

A former Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, commended the president for availing his time to commission some landmark projects executed by Governor Soludo, whom he endorsed for a second term in office.



PG CONGRATULATES SOLUDO ON SUCCESSFUL HOSTING OF THE PRESIDENT

By David Okpala/Stella Okpala

The President General(PG), Akpo Development Association(ADA), Nze Henry C. Dim, has poured encomiums on Governor Chukwuma Soludo for hosting Mr President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, describing it as requisite to connecting Anambra State to the centre for development.

He made his position public while interacting with information officers at Akpo, in Aguata LGA, on May 12. It will be recalled that President Tinubu made a remarkable one-day working visit to Anambra State on May 8, 2025. The PG said, "We need to separate politics from governance. The two may be related, yet not the same thing.

"Politics involves activities and struggles geared at bringing one into political office; government activities can also be political.

"In the case of governance, it is about the governed welfare. How can we better make the lives of the governed? How protective can we as a government be of the governed's life and property?

"This is where my commendations go to the amiable Governor of Anambra State for bringing President Tinubu to Anambra State for commissioning legacy projects.

"These projects are put up with the Anambra State treasury to make the lives of Ndi Anambra. No doubt, with over 100 erosion sites in Anambra State, the Anambra State treasury is overwhelmed, and such demands federal might.

"To get this might, bridges instead of barriers must be built, and this is where Soludo got it all right.

"On the issue of Monday sit-at-home ravaging the economy of South East Nigeria, which has defied wise ideas to solve it, bridges ought to be built to continue. The bone is still there in our throat. So, no rest until it is solved."

According to him, it must be discussed among those who ought to discuss it and how it could be treated at the source, which is the continued detention of Nnamdi Kanu. The matter is in court, yet a political solution could be better and faster.



On the issue of critics saying that the president's visit is politically motivated, aiming at boosting Soludo's second tenure chances, PG emphasised that Soludo has performed credibly enough to be pleaded with to continue in office.

"Some of us say that the Awka Fun City project has nothing to offer to ordinary Onye Anambra; those saying or thinking in this direction are ignorant of the tourist economy.

"The International Conference Centre, joined to Fun City, has made Awka the State Capital, the first choice city for international conferences, therefore boosting the hospitality industries of Anambra State.

"The Fun City project thereby increases revenue generated for the government to sustain free education and free healthcare for pregnant and nursing mothers. This is where ordinary Onye Anambra benefits from the Fun City project."

"What we are praying for in Anambra State is a credible election and proper declaration of election results. Soludo is the winner; his performance has given it to him. No reasonable doubt about this.

ASHIA SENSITISES ENROLMENT OFFICERS ON FREE HIV, TB INSURANCE SCHEME





By Chisom Okafor

The Anambra State Health Insurance Agency (ASHIA) has held a one-day sensitisation workshop for enrolment officers to strengthen the implementation of its free health insurance programme for people living with HIV and tuberculosis, supported by the Global Fund.

The workshop, which took place in Awka, aimed to equip officers with a clear understanding of the scheme, reinforce the importance of maintaining beneficiary confidentiality, and ensure accurate data collection during the enrolment process. It also clarified the roles of enrolment officers and stakeholders while addressing potential challenges that may arise in the field.

Speaking at the event, the ASHIA Managing Director and CEO, Dr Simeon Onyemaechi, emphasised the need for professionalism, empathy, and strict adherence to ethical standards, reminding officers that a valid National Identification Number (NIN) is mandatory for all enrollees.

The training underscores ASHIA's commitment to delivering accessible, stigma-free healthcare services to vulnerable populations across Anambra State.

ANAMBRA GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES 'SOLUTIONLENS' FOR GOVERNANCE ENGAGEMENT



By Chizoba Njaka

On Thursday, May 15, 2025, the Anambra State Government will formally unveil SolutionLens, a pioneering digital platform, through a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, the Ministry of Information, and the Anambra State ICT Agency. This platform is designed to foster transparency, accountability, and civic engagement in governance.

According to a statement signed by Angela Nwanodu, Public Relations Officer, SolutionLens is a digital platform that enables citizens of Anambra State to monitor the implementation of government projects across various sectors, including education, health, infrastructure, and water resources, while providing avenues for public feedback and engagement.

The SolutionLens platform boasts several notable features, including a centralised project hub, interactive mapping, and a user-friendly interface, as well as direct chat functionality with government MDAs. This digital initiative is a key component of Governor Chukwuma Soludo's strategic vision for a smart, inclusive, and transparent Anambra State.

The event will attract stakeholders, including senior government officials, development partners, civil society organisations, community leaders, tech innovators, and media representatives, both in person and virtually. Members of the public worldwide are invited to participate in the live launch via Facebook.

500 YOUTHS GRADUATE FROM ANAOCHA SKILLS ACQUISITION PROGRAMME





By Ifeoma Aniagbado

500 youths trained under the Anaocha Skills Acquisition have graduated and been empowered with start-up kits.

Addressing the participants at Anaocha Local Government Area, Neni, the Executive Governor of Anambra State, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, represented by the Commissioner for Youth Development, Mr Patrick Agha-Mba, commended the mayor for keying into Mr Governor's vision of upskilling the youth of the state, being proactive and passionate in supporting the Youth Development Agenda, which falls under the third pillar of this current administration.

He also said that the 1 Youth 2 Skills Solution program is Mr. Governor's initiative that was designed with the key objective of shifting youth employment from the baseline of immediate consumption to a productive innovation, exportive and impactful venture.

He congratulated the graduating youths, urging them to take bold steps in putting what they learnt into practice to guarantee their success.

Also speaking, the Mayor of Anaocha Local Government Area, Hon. Romanus Ibekwe, welcomed everyone present, saying that the Skills Acquisition Empowerment Initiative is to make the youth self-reliant and to reduce unemployment in the state.

In his remarks, the Commissioner for Information, Dr Law Mefor, congratulated the graduands and advised them to be mindful of the money they spent and their income to develop their businesses.

One of the participants from Nri, Ozioma Okafor, who learnt tailoring, thanked the mayor for the wonderful opportunities given to them to be part of the skill acquisition programme and promised not to let the people of Anaocha down after the graduation.

Some of the participants who spoke during the graduation ceremony expressed gratitude to the local government chairman, commending him for the privilege given to them to acquire more knowledge through training, saying that the programme is the best.

The graduands were very happy with the start-up kits and support to enable them to start up their own business.

In attendance are the members of the Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC), the member representing Anaocha Constituency II, Hon. Ejike Okechukwu, traditional rulers, Presidents General, Councillors representing Anaocha LG, CEO St. Cletus Healthcare Ltd, Chief Cletus Obianodo, Chairman Anambra State Sports Development Commission, Mr. Patrick Onyedum, and others.