THE SOLUTION

JULY BULLETIN

...a publication of the Ministry of Information and Value Reformation, Anambra State

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By Law Mefor



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COMMISSIONER FOR INFORMATION & VALUE REFORMATION

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ONYEZE JESUS'S SENTENCING AND ANAMBRA'S STAND AGAINST CRIMINAL IDOLATRY

An Awka High Court, presided over by Justice Jude Obiora, on Friday, July 17, 2026, sentenced ontroversial self-acclaimed prophet and native doctor, Onyebuchi Okocha, popularly known as Onyeze Jesus, to six years imprisonment with a N20 million fine.

Onyeze Jesus was found guilty of the first, out of a three-count charge, which borders on enriching people through supernatural means and money doubling, contrary to Section 18 of the Anambra Homeland Security Law.

The judgement, which is a clear test of the new Anambra Homeland Security Law 2025 by the judiciary, apart from showing that the law is in full force, highlights the importance of upholding the rule of law and discouraging activities that promote criminality under the guise of religion, spirituality, or traditional practices.

It demonstrates the commitment of the judiciary to ensuring that individuals who violate the law are held accountable for their actions, regardless of their popularity, influence, or social status. The sentence imposed on Onyeze Jesus sends a strong message that criminal activities cannot be justified or protected by claims of supernatural powers or religious authority.

There is no doubt that the sentence will deter others from engaging in practices that encourage fraud, deception, or the promotion of rituals falsely presented as legitimate means of acquiring wealth or success. Such practices can mislead vulnerable members of society, especially young people, into believing that criminal behaviour or magical solutions are acceptable paths to prosperity.

The case also underscores the need to combat criminal idolatry, particularly where religious or spiritual beliefs are exploited to promote unlawful activities or deceive members of the public. Addressing such conduct through legal sanctions helps protect citizens from exploitation, strengthens public confidence in the justice system, and reinforces the principle that no one is above the law.

Furthermore, the conviction supports the efforts of law enforcement agencies and the courts in promoting accountability, maintaining public order, and safeguarding the integrity of society. By imposing both a custodial sentence and a substantial fine, the court sought not only to punish the offender but also to discourage similar conduct and uphold respect for the law.

The conviction and sentencing of Onyeze Jesus underscored the importance of justice, accountability, and adherence to the rule of law. It serves as a reminder that society must reject every form of criminal conduct disguised as religious or spiritual practice and instead promote lawful, ethical, and productive means of achieving success.



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CHINUA ACHEBE'S STATUE AND SOLUDO'S VALUE REFORMATION AGENDA

By Law Mefor

The Solution Governor of Anambra State, Professor Chukwuma Charles Soludo, CFR, says the future belongs to young people who choose purpose over violence and avarice. Recently, an opportunity offered itself again for Governor Soludo to show up as a leading moral agent.

The good people of the ancient kingdom of Ogidi, in Anambra State, decided to honour and immortalise their son, the legendary intellectual and foremost African writer, the late Professor Chinua Achebe, by erecting a statue of him. The solution governor of Anambra, Professor Chukwuma Soludo, unveiled the statue and used the opportunity to recall the life and times of the iconic writer, his place in history, the lessons to be drawn from his most exemplary life and the statue erected in his honour.

Achebe's magnum opus, Things Fall Apart, from which the governor drew allusion, is renowned for its profound cultural wisdom, memorable proverbs, and critical exploration of the impact of colonialism on traditional Igbo society. The novel masterfully blends storytelling with thematic depth.

Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo recounted how Chinua Achebe told the story of a typical Igbo man through this famous novel, Things Fall Apart. Soludo called out the aberration of a character named Uloka in Achebe's novel, who, like many of today's youths, thought that progress and happiness are attributable to supernatural means and not to hard work.

Yes, Uloka, the father of Okonkwo, the lead character in Things Fall Apart, visited the fortune teller to ascertain why his harvest was abysmally poor in a certain season. The diviner, unlike today's fake prophets and native doctors, told Uloka that his poor yield was not caused by the gods but by his laziness and failure to act like other men who sought fertile lands in far-flung places while he tilled and planted on the same land year after year. "Go and be a man," the oracle told Uloka, Soludo recounted.

Soludo used his analogy of the said Uloka in the story to draw a parallel between him and today's youths who are being deceived by evil native doctors and fake pastors who produce charms for them. Charms like Okeite and Odeshi and fake prayers,offer the youths Dutch courage and promises of wealth without work.

Saying, as always, that 'Aka aja aja na-ebute onu mmanu mmanu' (an Igbo idiom that roughly translates to 'hard work yields progress and happiness'), Soludo emphasised that there is no shortcut to wealth and glory. Indeed Governor Soludo has established himself as a prominent moral agent in the state he leads, popularising this Igbo idiom and making it his refrain everywhere he goes.

He urged the youths of Ogidi and Idemili LGAs to emulate Chinua Achebe as a symbol of hard work and the virtues associated with the Igbo, or Onye Anambra. Soludo said Chinua Achebe would weep in his grave to see our youths embracing vices such as cultism, Okeite and many more negativities.

The governor had noted that Ogidi, the homeland of Chinua Achebe, along with Awka, Nkpor, Obosi, Umuoji, and Abatete, are hotspots for cult activities, and he urged their youths to change their ways and warned that there would be consequences.

Governor Soludo has turned attention more seriously to the issue of value reformation and has elevated it to a ministerial mandate, making it now the Ministry of Information and Value Reformation. The ministry has also taken up the challenge.

The Ministry of Information and Value Reformation, along with stakeholders, is developing a triad approach for value reformation in Anambra State, including both organisations and expert individuals.

The first leg of the triad approach is legislation, which is a process that will create the legal and governance framework necessary for value reformation in the state.

The second is 'moral suasion' – the use of rhetorical appeals, persuasion, or implicit pressure – rather than outright coercion or force – to change behaviour. It often appeals to common values, ethics or a "moral responsibility" to induce voluntary compliance.

Third, after moral suasion, enforcement will follow in cases of non-compliance. Certain actions that are criminalised by the Anambra Value Reformation Law will be strictly enforced, similar to the Anambra Homeland Security Law 2025, which contains specific provisions against Okeite and similar criminal practices. This enforcement has already resulted in the conviction and sentencing of Akwa Okuko Tiwara Aki and Onye Eze Jesus, while another individual, a fake Dibia named Eke-Hit, along with Muommiri-Afuluanya, is currently standing trial under the same law.

Anambra is therefore radically transforming, not just in terms of physical infrastructure and human capital development but also in moral and ethical rebirth for the emergence of a new Onye Anambra and an Anambra State that will be a destination of choice, where people can return to/visit, live, work, invest, relax and enjoy.

Yes, Anambra is rising under the very intentional and transformational leadership of the solution governor, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo.

MEFOR SEEKS PARTNERSHIP WITH EDUCATION MINISTRY TO SUPPORT SOLUDO'S VALUE REFORMATION AGENDA

CALLS FOR CLARIFICATIONS ON GRADUATION CEREMONIES, REFORM IN PUNISHMENTS IN SCHOOLS

By Rose Oranye

The Anambra State Ministry of Information and Value Reformation is seeking a joint framework with the Ministry of Education to drive Governor Chukwuemeka Soludo's value reformation agenda and to reform school punishment policy across the state.

The Commissioner for Information and Value Reformation, Dr Law Mefor, proposed this on Friday, during a courtesy visit to the Commissioner for Education, Dr Ekene Ogugua, in Awka.

Dr Mefor congratulated Dr Ogugua on his appointment and said that education remained central to the Soludo administration's five-pillar development plan.

He called for a review of school punishment, emphasising that it should be civil and focused on behaviour modification rather than relying solely on flogging or bullying by teachers.

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He explained the concept of aversion – a form of consequence where learners understand the outcome of their actions and have the choice to avoid punishment – and warned that the absence of structured discipline could lead to "means-end inversion", citing instances where students assault teachers.

He suggested holding a workshop with school leaders, education experts, and parents to create a discipline policy based on research that follows the Child's Rights Act, noting that legislation, moral suasion, and enforcement are crucial for fostering a moral and ethical revival to create the new 'Onye Anambra' who will benefit from the infrastructure being developed by the Soludo Government.

"Governor Soludo aims to ensure that physical development is accompanied by human capital development and behaviour modification. Otherwise, in six months to one year, touts and criminality will destroy what we have built," he warned.

In his response, Dr Ogugua thanked Dr Mefor and accepted the offer of partnership on both discipline reform and value reformation.

He reaffirmed the governor's commitments to free education, free antenatal care, teacher recruitment and training, school renovation, and digital transformation of education.

On discipline, Dr Ogugua disclosed that the ministry has already presented a draft policy to the State Executive Council and is updating it to align with the Child's Rights Act, adding that the Education Ministry welcomes collaboration with the Information Ministry to finalise the document.

On discipline, Dr Ogugua disclosed that the ministry has already presented a draft policy to the State Executive Council and is updating it to align with the Child's Rights Act, adding that the Education Ministry welcomes collaboration with the Information Ministry to finalise the document.

The Education Commissioner also clarified the government's position on graduation ceremonies, saying that the ban has no exceptions until SS3 and that no student should be required to contribute money for that purpose.

"At SS3, no student should be mandated to pay for graduation ceremonies. If old boys, old girls, or any group want to organise a ceremony for them, that is fine. But there must be no financial imposition on students," he said.



ASHIA RESUMES BHCPF ENROLMENT ACROSS ANAMBRA

By Chisom Okafor



The Executive Secretary of the Anambra State Health Insurance Agency (ASHIA), Dr. Augustine Ezeka, has announced the resumption of enrolment into the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) programme across the state.

Speaking to journalists in his office in Awka on July 13, Dr. Ezeka said the enrolment exercise commenced on July 14 to enable more vulnerable residents access quality healthcare services through Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs).

He disclosed that 329 Primary Healthcare Centres across the state have been designated for the exercise and urged eligible residents to visit the PHC closest to them for enrolment.

According to him, the programme is open to pregnant women, children under five years of age, elderly persons, and indigent individuals, who stand to benefit from free, quality healthcare services under the BHCPF scheme.

Dr. Ezeka stressed that the National Identification Number (NIN) is mandatory for registration and advised all intending beneficiaries to present their NIN at the point of enrolment to ensure a seamless registration process.

He reaffirmed ASHIA's commitment to expanding access to quality and affordable healthcare for vulnerable populations as part of the state's drive towards achieving universal health coverage.

ARC. ARIZE URGES REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS TO ALIGN WITH STATE GOVERNMENT'S HOUSING AGENDA

By Ekweaga Uzoma

The Anambra State Commissioner for Housing, Arc. Henry Arize, has called on real estate developers to align their activities with the state government's housing development agenda to promote sustainable growth and expand access to affordable housing.

Commissioner Arize made the call when the executive members of the Real Estate Developers Association of Nigeria (REDAN), Anambra State Chapter, paid him a courtesy visit at his office in the Jerome Udoji Secretariat, Awka.

The commissioner said Governor Chukwuma Soludo remained committed to infrastructural development, particularly through the state's social housing programme. He disclosed that the government is prepared to allocate land with Certificates of Occupancy (C of O) to credible developers capable of completing housing projects within agreed timelines.

He urged the association to align its requests with the state's land administration policies, noting that Anambra is the second smallest state in Nigeria by land mass after Lagos State.

Commissioner Arize expressed concern over fraudulent practices in the real estate sector, alleging that some operators have exploited people's lands for business transactions without proper safeguards.

Speaking on access to housing finance, the commissioner clarified that there is no law requiring real estate developers to register with REDAN before they can access loans from the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN).

According to him, any qualified landowner who can provide the required 30 per cent equity contribution is eligible to apply for a Federal Mortgage housing loan.

On the state's social housing programme, Commissioner Arize disclosed that the Ministry of Housing has entered into agreements with some financial institutions to facilitate the project, explaining that once the design stage is completed, construction will commence, while site layout preparations are already underway.

Earlier, the Chairman of REDAN, Anambra State Chapter, Dr. Sunny Nwachukwu, congratulated Arize on his appointment and reaffirmed the long-standing relationship between the ministry and the association, expressing concern that Anambra had not benefited significantly from several federal government housing initiatives, including the Renewed Hope Housing Programme, particularly the proposed 2,000 housing units targeted at low-income earners.

He appealed to the commissioner to facilitate a meeting between the association and Governor Soludo to enable REDAN brief him on the Federal Government Housing Schemes and the potential benefits for the people of Anambra State.

Also speaking, the immediate past Chairman of the association, Sir Lawrence Nkwonta, stressed the importance of cooperative societies in accessing housing finance, saying that cooperative membership is a prerequisite for obtaining certain housing loans through REDAN and the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria.

Other members of the REDAN delegation included the Secretary, Dr. Nzube Ekebosi; Financial Secretary, Mr. Benjamin Okeke; Publicity Secretary, Mr. Ikpeze Emeka; and member, Chief Ike Ezeokafor.

NONYE SOLUDO URGES OLDER ADULTS TO STAY ACTIVE FOR HEALTHY AGEING

By MaryAnn Chukwuma.



The wife of the Anambra State Governor, Mrs. Nonye Soludo, has encouraged older adults to make regular physical activity a part of their daily routines, describing exercise as a vital ingredient for healthy ageing and overall wellbeing.

In a healthy living message shared on her official Facebook page on July 14, 2026, Mrs. Soludo urged senior

citizens to remain active, stressing that simple activities such as walking, stretching and strength-building exercises can help preserve good health, mobility and independence.

She explained that advancing in age should not be viewed as a reason to become inactive, noting that consistent exercise strengthens the body, improves flexibility and keeps the mind alert.

Mrs. Soludo further stated that regular physical activity enhances balance, promotes cardiovascular health, supports cognitive function and may reduce the risk of age-

related mental decline, including dementia, thereby enabling older adults to lead healthier, more independent lives.

As a longstanding advocate of healthy nutrition, physical fitness, mental wellness and disease prevention, the First Lady also called on families and communities to support and motivate older adults to maintain active lifestyles for healthier, more productive and fulfilling ageing.

The advocacy aligns with the Soludo administration's commitment to advancing preventive healthcare and enhancing the overall quality of life of residents across Anambra State.

EXAMINATION MONITORING: COMMISSIONER WARNS PRINCIPALS AGAINST LAXITY, VISITS SCHOOLS IN AWKA AND OKPUNO



By Obiageli Nwankwo

The Anambra State Commissioner for Education, Dr. Ekene Ogugua, has warned principals to improve supervision in their schools or face removal from office during an unscheduled examination monitoring exercise across selected public secondary schools in the state.

The commissioner visited Igwebuike Grammar School, Awka, and Community Secondary School, Okpuno, to assess compliance with examination guidelines, particularly the ongoing NECO examinations, and reinforce the government's zero tolerance for examination malpractice.

Dr. Ogugua said the state government would no longer tolerate any practice that undermines the credibility of public examinations, stressing that schools must not become centres where students depend on unfair means to succeed.

At Igwebuike Grammar School, the commissioner expressed disappointment over the level of disorder, observing many students loitering around the premises during examination hours, a situation, he said, reflected poor supervision by the school management.

He also faulted the condition of the examination hall, describing it as untidy and below acceptable standards, and urged the school authorities to provide a conducive examination environment that promotes discipline, orderliness and academic excellence.

Addressing the students, Dr. Ogugua encouraged them to maintain a clean environment, noting that cleanliness reflects good character, discipline and respect for learning, while also creating a better atmosphere for academic activities.

At Community Secondary School, Okpuno, the commissioner observed that the NECO examination had not commenced at the scheduled time because the external supervisors were yet to arrive, while some students were seen outside.

Responding, the school's Principal, Mrs. Osigwe, explained that the students outside were Junior Secondary School candidates who had completed their first paper and were waiting for the next examination to begin.

The commissioner said the monitoring exercise forms part of the Soludo administration's efforts to restore integrity to the education sector, warning that principals who fail to uphold examination standards and discipline would face appropriate sanctions.



ENUGWU-UKWU AGUNECHEMBA INTENSIFIES BUSH-COMBING OPERATIONS AGAINST CRIMINAL ELEMENTS

By Emeka Ilozor



The Enugwu-Ukwu Agunechemba Joint Security Team has intensified efforts to rid the community of criminal elements by conducting a major bush-combing operation across strategic forest locations on July 14, as part of ongoing measures to enhance security and safeguard lives and property.

The operation was disclosed in a statement issued by the Enugwu-Ukwu Security Council and signed by its Secretary, Sir Nnamdi Onuzuluike. According to the statement, the exercise was approved by the Security Council in collaboration with the Council of Village Chairmen and Secretaries.

The security operation was coordinated by the President General of Enugwu-Ukwu, Chief Patrick Nworji, alongside the Director of Administration and Finance, Sir Nnamdi Onuzuluike, while the Director of Operations of Enugwu-Ukwu Agunechemba, retired Group Captain Chidi Nwenweh, led the field team.

The joint Central and Unit Operatives commenced the exercise at the Onungene mainland in Uruekwo Village, before advancing into the forest behind Okutalukwe Secondary School. The operatives combed several kilometres of difficult terrain up to the boundary with neighbouring Nise, in a determined effort to identify and dismantle suspected criminal hideouts, including those linked to kidnappers and armed bandits.

During the operation, farmers, construction workers and cattle rearers encountered within the area were professionally screened. Those found to be carrying out legitimate activities were cleared and allowed to continue their work without interference.

The exercise was concluded with a show-of-force patrol along major roads within the community, including the Enugwu-Ukwu section of the Agu-Isionye Road to the Enugu-Onitsha Expressway, before returning through the Nawfia axis

.

No casualties were recorded during the operation.

The security council described the exercise as a strong message that Enugwu-Ukwu would not serve as a refuge for criminal elements. It reaffirmed the commitment of the Agunechemba security outfit to sustaining round-the-clock patrols and proactive security operations.

It urged residents to remain vigilant and continue providing timely and credible information to support efforts aimed at maintaining peace and security across the community.

ASMATA PRESIDENT-GENERAL COMMENDS SOLUDO'S HEALTHCARE AGENDA, LAUDS FREE MEDICAL OUTREACH

By Ebele Egoh

The President-General of the Anambra State Markets Amalgamated Traders Association (ASMATA), Chief Humphrey Anuna, has commended Governor Chukwuma Soludo's commitment to strengthening healthcare delivery, particularly the recruitment of qualified healthcare professionals across the state.

Chief Anuna gave the commendation on July 14, while participating in the ongoing five-day free medical outreach at Ogbo-Ogwu Bridge Head Market, Onitsha, where he received medical attention from healthcare professionals.

He described the market clinic as a vital healthcare facility capable of saving lives by providing prompt medical care and reducing casualties during emergencies.

The ASMATA President-General praised the Chairman of the Caretaker Committee of Ogbo-Ogwu Bridge Head Market, Mr. Ndubuisi Chukwuleta, and his team for organising the free medical outreach, describing the initiative as timely, innovative and impactful.

"I am impressed that a market can invest so much time, effort and resources to organise such a comprehensive medical outreach at

no cost to beneficiaries. I am delighted that this is happening during my tenure as ASMATA President-General," he noted.

Chief Anuna encouraged traders to take advantage of the free medical services, stressing that regular health checks are essential for the early detection and treatment of illnesses.

According to him, good health remains the foundation of productivity and economic prosperity, adding that "health is wealth."

During the visit, he monitored the outreach and underwent a comprehensive medical examination, including blood pressure checks, malaria screening, medical consultation, laboratory investigations and eye examination.

He expressed satisfaction with the quality of healthcare services provided by the medical team, appreciating the organisers for offering consultations, laboratory tests, eye care services and medications free of charge.



ANSOCU MOVES TO HARMONISE SOCIAL REGISTER DATA FOR POOR, VULNERABLE ACROSS SOUTH-EAST

By Nwanneka Nwokedi

The Anambra State Operations Coordinating Unit (ANSOCU) has been urged to collaborate with its counterparts across the South-East to harmonise the State Social Register (SSR) and strengthen the tracking of poor and vulnerable populations displaced across state boundaries by economic and security challenges.

The recommendation was made during a workshop on the application of the Regional Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for ministries and agencies in the South-East, held at a hotel in Enugu.

The workshop, themed "Sub-National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Customised for Social Safety Nets in the South-East Zonal Bloc," was organised by Kemlude Options Nigeria Limited in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning.

Participants were encouraged to leverage regional data to help states identify and respond to location-specific vulnerabilities, particularly those arising from insecurity and economic shocks, while enhancing the effectiveness of the SSR for poor and vulnerable households.

ANSOCU was also advised to establish a quarterly data-sharing forum with other State Operations Coordinating Units (SOCUs) in the South-East to benchmark data collection practices, improve cross-border coordination and monitor regional migration trends.

ANSOCU is the Federal Government-supported agency responsible for developing and maintaining the state social register, which serves as the database for identifying poor and vulnerable households for social intervention programmes in Anambra State.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT DRIVE REACHES ISUOFIA AS AN-NFWP-SU INTENSIFIES COMMUNITY SENSITISATION

By Chinyere Ogbuagu/Ukpa Ewa

Women in Isuofia Community, Aguata Local Government Area of Anambra State, have been encouraged to embrace the opportunities provided by the Anambra Nigeria for Women Programme Scale-Up (AN-NFWP-SU) Project to improve their livelihoods and promote sustainable community development.

The appeal was made during the project's community mobilisation and sensitisation exercise held on July 15, at the Isuofia Civic Centre. The event attracted women, men and youths



Welcoming the project team, the President-General of Isuofia Community, Engr. Fidelis Okafor, represented by the Vice President-General, Hon. Ogochukwu Ibeneme, commended Governor Chukwuma Soludo for initiating programmes aimed at improving the economic well-being of women.

He described the initiative as a timely intervention that would create meaningful economic opportunities for women, assuring the team of the community's full support for its successful implementation. He noted that Isuofia is renowned for oil exploration, commerce and piggery, expressing optimism that the training and empowerment opportunities under the programme would help women expand their businesses and improve their standard of living.

Addressing participants, the Local Government Field Supervisor, Dr. Ebere Okonkwo, expressed satisfaction with the impressive turnout and explained that the Nigeria for Women Programme Scale-Up differs from conventional cooperative societies.

She advised participants to discard misconceptions arising from previous experiences with similar interventions, stressing that the project was carefully designed after evaluating lessons from earlier programmes to ensure greater impact and sustainability.

According to her, the project encourages women to cultivate a savings culture, build strong economic networks through Women Affinity Groups (WAGs), acquire livelihood skills and become more economically self-reliant while improving the welfare of their families and communities.

In their separate presentations, the State Project Coordinator, Ms. Hope Okoye, the Community Institution Builder, Mrs. Chiamaka Agbili, and the Livelihood Advisor, Dr. Ekene Adokwe, urged eligible women in Isuofia to actively participate in the programme by joining Women Affinity Groups, describing the groups as platforms for savings, financial inclusion, capacity building and collective economic advancement.

They further highlighted additional benefits available to participants, including enrolment in health insurance schemes, registration for the National Identification Number (NIN), and linkages to financial institutions and other economic opportunities.

Speaking on behalf of the women, the Community Woman Leader, Mrs. Ukamaka Ugokwe, expressed appreciation to the Anambra State Government for extending the initiative to the grassroots. She expressed confidence that the programme would improve the socio-economic conditions of women in the community, reduce poverty and promote self-reliance, assuring the project team that the women of Isuofia would actively participate in all aspects of the programme.

The exercise marked the tenth community to benefit from the ongoing community sensitisation campaign of the project across benefiting communities in Aguata LGA.

The event also featured the rendition of the women's anthem, an interactive question-and-answer session that addressed participants' concerns and awareness creation on gender-based violence, as well as the screening and recruitment of Ward Facilitators.









ANAMBRA GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP COMPENSATION FRAMEWORK FOR PROPERTY OWNERS AFFECTED BY POWER TRANSMISSION PROJECT

By Chukwuka Ugokwe

The Anambra State Government says it is developing a framework to facilitate compensation for property owners whose buildings and lands will be affected by the establishment of the right-of-way for a proposed 132KV electricity transmission line project.

The Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Barr. Chijioke Ojukwu, disclosed this while briefing journalists in his office on July 15, assuring affected property owners that the government would ensure a transparent and fair compensation process.

The proposed transmission line, an initiative of the Federal Government through the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), will pass through Nnobi, Awka-Etiti and Nnewi communities, expecting to strengthen electricity supply in Nnewi

and neighbouring communities while supporting economic growth across the state.

According to Ojukwu, the government has completed the identification and marking of the right-of-way and will soon invite affected property owners for documentation and verification of their claims.

He explained that the process would include the collation of relevant documents, determination of compensation where applicable, and the publication of an official gazette revoking affected properties in line with legal requirements.

The commissioner noted that the completion of the transmission project would significantly improve power supply, stimulate industrial activities and reinforce Anambra's position as a major commercial and manufacturing hub.

Ojukwu reiterated the state's commitment to delivering critical infrastructure projects that will enhance economic development and improve the quality of life of residents across Anambra State.



ANAMBRA, TECHNOSERVE EXPLORE PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, CIRCULAR ECONOMY

By Amaka Isikala



The Anambra State Ministry of Environment and TechnoServe have begun discussions on a strategic partnership aimed at strengthening environmental sustainability, waste management, climate resilience and the circular economy across the state.

The discussions commenced on July 17, when a TechnoServe delegation, led by its Programme Director, Mr. Shadrack Guusu, paid a courtesy visit to the Commissioner for Environment, Dr. Clem Aguiyi, to congratulate him on his appointment, present the organisation's programmes and explore areas of collaboration with the Ministry.

Speaking during the meeting, TechnoServe's Project Manager, Mr. Daniel Oderinde, said the organisation was well positioned to support the Ministry's proposed Environmental Academy through technical expertise, capacity building and environmental education.

He added that TechnoServe is prepared to provide technical blueprints, strengthen collaboration among government agencies, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders, as well as facilitate market linkages for recyclable plastics to boost waste recovery and promote a thriving circular economy.

Also speaking, the Programme Director, Mr. Shadrack Guusu, reaffirmed TechnoServe's commitment to improving plastic recycling through community engagement, capacity building and measures that enhance the safety and productivity of informal waste collectors.

The organisation's Business Adviser, Mr. Franklin Nwaribe, noted that TechnoServe has maintained a successful presence in Anambra State over the years and remains committed to aligning its interventions with the Ministry's environmental priorities.

Responding, Dr. Aguiyi welcomed the proposed collaboration, stressing that partnerships should deliver measurable results and align with the state's development priorities.

He reiterated the importance of institutionalising environmental education through the proposed Environmental Academy and called for support in curriculum development, technical training, provision of protective equipment and establishment of waste sorting facilities, particularly in schools, to nurture environmentally responsible citizens.

The commissioner urged TechnoServe and its partners, including the Coca-Cola Foundation, to expand interventions aimed at addressing flooding, gully erosion and plastic pollution.

He observed that while the state government continues to invest in tackling environmental degradation, sustainable solutions require public enlightenment, efficient waste management systems and the formalisation of the informal recycling sector.

Describing scavengers, scrap dealers and waste collectors as critical players in the circular economy, Dr. Aguiyi advocated structured training, safety education and technical support to improve their productivity and welfare.

He reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to collaborating with development partners in advancing Governor Chukwuma Soludo's Environment and Urban Regeneration Agenda towards building a clean, green, livable and environmentally sustainable Anambra State.

Dr. Aguiyi thanked the TechnoServe delegation for its commitment to the state and expressed confidence that the discussions would lead to a long-term partnership with lasting environmental benefits for Anambra.

OGIDI COMES ALIVE AS GOV SOLUDO UNVEILS CHINUA ACHEBE'S STATUE



By Ifeyinwa Ogwo

A joyous and vibrant celebration took place in Ogidi, when the Anambra State Governor, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, unveiled the statue of the renowned "Father of Modern African Literature," Prof. Chinua Achebe, at Nwasike Roundabout, in Ogidi, Idemili North LGA, on July 18.

During the unveiling, the governor emphasised the powerful message embedded in the statue, symbolising excellence and authenticity. "We should emulate Prof. Chinua Achebe's life and message. He was a gift to the world; Ogidi, Anambra, and Africa—so today, we honour him at his home. Though he is no longer alive, his ideas continue to influence society, specifically in Anambra, Igboland, Nigeria, Africa, and humanity as a whole.

"Ogidi youth, I challenge you to ask questions about this icon whenever you pass this road. Idemili North, which includes Ogidi, Nkpor, Abatete, and Umuoji, has become a hub of cultism, something that would make Chinua Achebe weep from wherever he is, as it contradicts his teachings of hard work," he said.

Governor Soludo shared that he personally drew inspiration from Prof. Achebe during Achebe's 1982 lecture, when Achebe was the deputy national chairman of the People's Redemption Party (PRP). He highlighted the importance of academics engaging in community service and societal involvement, rather than just criticising from the classroom, which motivated him to join politics and name his second son 'Chinua' after the literary icon.

Earlier, Hon. Stanley Nkwoka, Mayor of Idemili North, expressed his gratitude to the Governor for erecting a statue of Prof. Chinua Achebe in Ogidi, calling it a lasting legacy for future generations. "Prof. Chinua Achebe was a world-class man, just like our Governor, who associates himself with excellence," he remarked.

In his response, Prof. Ike Achebe, son of the late literary giant, sincerely thanked the governor for the honour —naming the airport after his father and erecting a statue to honour his legacy.

COMMISSIONER AGUMMADU, FIRST POWER DEEPEN PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IN ANAMBRA.

By Azuka Offor

The Anambra State Commissioner for Power, Engr. Casmir Chinenye Agummadu, on July 16, met with the management of First Power in Awka, to strengthen collaboration on improving electricity distribution statewide.

Agummadu said the meeting provided a practical platform to assess the electricity distribution network, identify priority intervention areas, and advance solutions that will improve service delivery across Anambra State.

The Commissioner commended First Power's efforts despite infrastructure challenges and urged residents to report energy theft and vandalism, assuring offenders would face the full weight of the law.

Managing Director of First Power, Engr. Okechukwu Okafor, outlined five strategic projects, including new injection substations and network upgrades, aimed at strengthening electricity infrastructure across communities.



Okafor expressed confidence that the projects would deliver more reliable electricity, stimulate economic growth, attract investment, and improve the quality of life for residents across the state.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Power and Water Resources, Mr. Victor Ezekwo, welcomed the partnership and reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to supporting initiatives that will achieve sustainable, round-the-clock electricity supply.

Technical Adviser to the Commissioner, Engr. Emeka Onuorah, commended First Power for the noticeable improvement in electricity supply, describing the company's recent performance as encouraging and worthy of recognition.

Also present were Engr. Ifeoma Uba, Head of Operations; Engr. Emeka Egbujor, Chief Technical Officer; Dr. Nnenna Obi, Chief Commercial Officer; Izunna Okafor, Head of Communications; Engr. O.T. Udechukwu, Head of Projects; and Engr. Fimber Ajegbu of the Ministry.

ANCOPSS 2026 CONGRESS: OGUGUA TASKS PRINCIPALS ON SOLUDO'S EDUCATION VISION, SEEKS INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP





By Obiageli Nwankwo

The Anambra State Commissioner for Education, Dr. Ekene Ogugua, on July 16, called on secondary school principals to join hands with the state government in making Anambra the benchmark for quality education in Nigeria and a model for the rest of Africa through committed and innovative leadership.

Speaking at the 2026 Annual Congress of the All Nigeria Confederation of Principals of Secondary Schools (ANCOPSS), held at Dennis Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha, Dr. Ogugua described principals as the primary implementers of Governor Chukwuma Soludo's education transformation agenda.

He said while the Ministry of Education formulates policies, the success of such policies depended on principals, who oversee their implementation in schools across the state.

Dr. Ogugua urged the principals to renew their commitment to service by leading with integrity, compassion, professionalism and courage, stressing that the government was determined to create schools where students feel safe, teachers are motivated and parents have confidence in the education system.

The Commissioner acknowledged challenges facing public schools, including inadequate infrastructure, increasing enrolment and changing educational demands, but assured the principals that Governor Soludo remained committed to tackling them through constructive dialogue, teamwork and practical, sustainable solutions.

Delivering the keynote paper titled "Innovative Leadership for Excellence in Education," the Secretary to the State Government, Mrs. Chiamaka Nnake, challenged principals to embrace innovation and reposition their schools for excellence despite prevailing constraints.

She said that school leadership extends beyond monitoring attendance and daily administration, urging principals to develop unique identities for their schools, build strong institutional brands and adopt creative approaches capable of improving learning outcomes.

Mrs. Nnake further encouraged principals to maximise instructional time, invest in continuous professional development, build data-driven schools and provide accurate education data to support evidence-based government policies, while maintaining discipline as a core responsibility of school leadership.

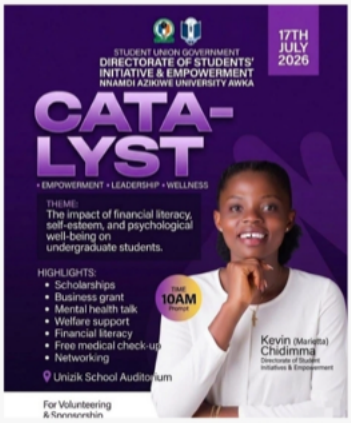
Also presenting a paper titled "Life After Retirement," Mrs. Carol Ikeaba advised principals to begin preparing for retirement while still in active service by investing wisely and positioning themselves for opportunities as education consultants, mentors to younger principals and community leaders.

The congress was attended by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Dr. Ifeoma Agbaizu; Chairman of the Anambra State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB), Dr. Justina Anyadiegwu; Executive Secretary of the Post Primary Schools Service Commission, Mrs. Benedine Aniagor, and other education stakeholders.



ASBA INSPIRES UNIZIK STUDENTS TO BUILD RESILIENCE, EMBRACE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT CATALYST 2026

By Chiamaka Edokwe



The Acting Managing Director of the Anambra State Small Business Agency (ASBA), Barr. Nonso Emeka, has urged students of Nnamdi Azikiwe University (UNIZIK), Awka, to embrace resilience, financial literacy and entrepreneurship as essential tools for personal and professional success.

Barr. Emeka delivered the keynote address on July 17, at the CATALYST 2026 Students' Empowerment Summit held at the university's School Auditorium.

The summit, themed "The Impact of Financial Literacy, Self-Esteem and Psychological Well being on Undergraduate Students," was organised by the Students' Union Government (SUG), Directorate of Student Initiatives and Empowerment, to equip undergraduates with the knowledge, mind-set and opportunities needed to excel academically, personally and economically.

Addressing the students, the ASBA Acting Managing Director encouraged them to remain focused despite life's challenges, reminding them that gaining admission into the university was itself evidence of determination and resilience.

He urged them to adopt the mind-set that they had "come too far to fail," stressing that academic setbacks, financial difficulties or business failures should never define their future.

Drawing inspiration from the lives of renowned innovators such as Thomas Edison and the founder of KFC, Barr. Emeka said success is often achieved through perseverance, noting that failure should be seen as a stepping stone rather than an endpoint.

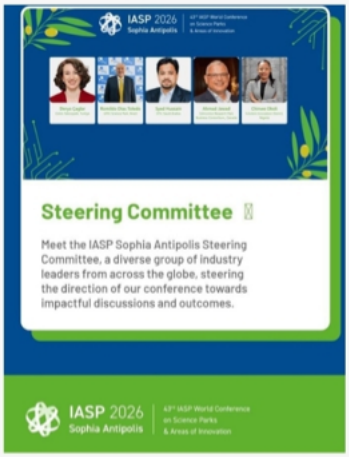
Reaffirming ASBA's commitment to youth entrepreneurship, he encouraged the students to take bold steps toward achieving their aspirations, reminding them of the agency's guiding philosophy: "No matter how big your dream is, you can start small."

He assured the students of ASBA's continued support through entrepreneurship development programmes, capacity-building initiatives and access to opportunities that will empower them to become self-reliant, innovative and active contributors to Anambra State's economic growth.

The summit featured sessions on leadership development, mental wellness, free medical check ups, screening exercises to identify outstanding student entrepreneurs and scholarship beneficiaries, the presentation of business grants and networking opportunities.



IASP 2026: ANAMBRA MAKES GLOBAL INNOVATION HEADLINES



By Chinedu Chukwuemelie

The Special Adviser to the Anambra State Governor on Innovation and Business Incubation and Chief Executive Officer of the Solution Innovation District (SID), Ms. Chinwe Okoli, has been appointed the only African member of the Global Steering Committee for the 43rd International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP) World Conference.

The conference is scheduled to hold from Oct. 27 to Oct. 30, 2026, in Cannes and Sophia Antipolis, France.

IASP is a global network of science parks and innovation districts, with more than 350 member organisations across over 70 countries dedicated to promoting innovation, entrepreneurship and technology driven development.

Okoli's appointment underscores Anambra State's growing presence in the global innovation ecosystem and aligns with Governor Chukwuma Soludo's vision of "Everything Technology, Technology Everywhere."

Since its establishment in 2023, SID has trained more than 264,000 Anambra residents in digital skills and secured strategic partnerships with private sector organisations to advance innovation and entrepreneurship in the state.

The appointment is expected to strengthen Anambra's participation in global conversations on innovation districts while creating opportunities for international collaboration, investment and knowledge exchange.

A statement by the Solution Innovation District described the appointment as a major milestone for Anambra's innovation agenda and reaffirmed the state's commitment to positioning itself as a leading technology and innovation hub in Africa.

ANAMBRA WEST MAYOR HAILS SOLUDO OVER PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL FOR DUALIZATION OF OTUOCHA ANAM NZAM–IBAJI FEDERAL ROAD

By Felix Igboanugo

The Mayor of Anambra West Local Government Area, Mrs Edith Nkeiru Ndive, has commended Gov. Chukwuma Soludo for securing Presidential approval for the dualisation of the Otuocha Anam Nzam–Ibaji Federal Road.

Ndive gave the commendation while speaking with an Information Officer in her office at Nzam, describing the approval as a

significant milestone that would accelerate the socio economic development of Anambra West and adjoining communities.

She attributed the approval to Soludo's sustained engagement with the Federal Government, saying it underscored the governor's commitment to improving infrastructure and enhancing the welfare of residents.

According to the mayor, the dualisation of the road will improve transportation, facilitate trade, boost agricultural activities, reduce travel time and strengthen economic ties between Anambra and Kogi States, as well as neighbouring communities.

Hon. Ndive also commended President Bola Tinubu for approving the project, describing the decision as timely and beneficial to commuters, farmers, traders and other road users.

She said the cordial relationship between the state and Federal Government had continued to attract impactful projects aimed at addressing longstanding infrastructure deficits and promoting inclusive development.

The mayor expressed confidence that the approval would mark the beginning of a new era of development for residents who had long awaited the reconstruction and expansion of the road.

She reaffirmed her administration's commitment to complementing the state's development agenda through grassroots mobilisation, community engagement and people centred initiatives across Anambra West Local Government Area.

Ndive expressed optimism that, upon completion, the project would improve connectivity, enhance security, create employment opportunities and stimulate sustainable economic growth in the area.



ARTMA LAUNCHES 'SEE IT, VIDEO IT & EARN' CAMPAIGN TO CURB ONE WAY DRIVING

By Obianuju Isima



The Management of the Anambra State Road Traffic Management Agency (ARTMA) has launched Operation "See It, Video It & Earn", a public driven initiative aimed at strengthening traffic law enforcement and curbing the dangerous practice of driving against traffic on dual carriageways across the state.

The initiative was announced in a statement published on the agency's facebook page on July 19.

Under the campaign, members of the public are encouraged to record clear video evidence of motorists driving against traffic. The footage must clearly capture both the offending vehicle and its registration number.

The agency urged residents to submit such videos via WhatsApp to 08063159282, explaining that where a report is verified and leads to the impoundment of the offending vehicle, the whistle blower will receive a minimum reward of ₦20,000.

ARTMA assured members of the public that the identities of all whistle blowers would be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

According to the agency, the campaign is designed to promote responsible road use, discourage reckless driving and protect road users from preventable crashes caused by one-way violations.

The agency called on residents to support the initiative by reporting traffic offenders, stressing that collective action is essential to building a safer road transport system across Anambra State.



JDPC ONITSHA TRAINS COMMUNITY ADVOCATES TO COMBAT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE



By Osegbue Patricia

The Justice, Development and Peace Caritas (JDPC), Onitsha Region, has intensified its fight against child sexual abuse and molestation by organising a comprehensive "Train-the-Trainer" campaign aimed at equipping community advocates with the knowledge and skills to protect vulnerable children.

The awareness campaign, held at St. Mary's Catholic Church premises, Inland Town, Onitsha, brought together participants who will, in turn, educate people at the grassroots level on child protection, abuse prevention, and reporting mechanisms.

Speaking during the programme, the Campaign Awareness Coordinator, Mrs. Sandra Udu, said the training became necessary following the increasing cases of child abuse and molestation in society. She explained that the initiative is designed to raise trainers who will create awareness in communities, identify perpetrators, and ensure justice for survivors.

Mrs. Udu dismissed the misconception that JDPC is solely involved in food distribution within the church, stressing that the organisation's mandate extends to promoting democracy and good governance, community development, environmental protection, and social and economic justice.

According to her, JDPC monitors public projects, advocates against environmental hazards such as indiscriminate burning of tyres and blocked drainage systems, promotes tree planting, and champions the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly women and children.

She noted that the Child Abuse and Safeguarding Awareness and Management Campaign (CASAMC) provides a comprehensive guide on child protection, abuse reporting, survivor support, and safeguarding responsibilities for families, schools, parishes, and communities.

In her words, "Child protection requires more than awareness; it requires practical action, clear policies, and strong accountability structures within our schools, parishes, and communities."

She urged participants never to shield perpetrators of abuse but to remain committed to ensuring that children are supervised, respected, listened to, and protected at all times. "Protecting children is not only a legal responsibility but also a moral and spiritual obligation," she added.

In an interview, the Regional Director of JDPC, Onitsha Region, Hon. Ezekiah Umeh Nnanyelugo, explained that the organisation handles reports backed by credible evidence, conducts thorough investigations, and pursues cases until justice is achieved for victims.

He disclosed that JDPC works with professionals across different departments to provide legal, social, and other forms of support necessary to secure justice for survivors.

Also speaking, the Regional Secretary, Mrs. Ononuju Okoye Franca, identified inadequate logistics and funding as major challenges confronting the organisation.

She appealed to individuals, organisations, and development partners to support JDPC's child protection programmes to enable it expand its outreach to more communities.

One of the trainees, Mrs. Okechukwu Gladys, expressed appreciation for the training, pledging to become an active advocate against child abuse and to promote child protection within her community.

ANAMBRA POLICE CELEBRATE PROMOTION OF CP ORUTUGU, FORMER CP ITAM TO AIG RANK



By Chizoba Njaka

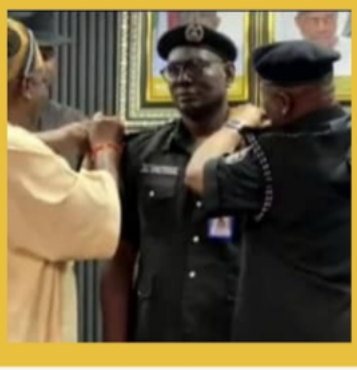
The Anambra State Police Command has congratulated its substantive Commissioner of Police, AIG Ikioye Orutugu, on his promotion to the rank of Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG). The promotion and decoration ceremony was held at the Force Headquarters, Abuja, on July 21, during which the immediate past Commissioner of Police in Anambra State, AIG Nnaghe Obono Itam, was also decorated alongside other newly promoted senior officers of the Nigeria Police Force.

According to a statement issued in Awka, by the Police Public Relations Officer, SP Tochukwu Ikenga, the simultaneous elevation of the serving and immediate past commissioners reflects the Nigeria Police Force's recognition of their exceptional leadership, professionalism, dedication, and distinguished service to the nation.

The statement noted that during their respective tenures in Anambra State, both officers demonstrated exemplary leadership by strengthening operational policing, deepening collaboration with stakeholders, enhancing public confidence in the Police, and contributing significantly to improved security across the state.

It described their promotions as a well-deserved recognition of their outstanding contributions to the growth and development of the Nigeria Police Force and national security. The Command expressed pride in the achievement, describing it as a testament to its commitment to professionalism, excellence, and effective service delivery.

The officers and men of the Anambra State Police Command congratulated AIG Ikioye Orutugu and AIG Nnaghe Obono Itam on their promotions, wishing them good health, greater success, and continued excellence as they undertake their new responsibilities in the Nigeria Police Force.



ANAMBRA STUDENT REPRESENTS NIGERIA AT 2026 WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP IN KENYA

By Ngozi Okoli

The Anambra-born student and Senior Prefect of Mater Amabilis College, Enuka Chibusonma, represented Nigeria at the 2026 World Schools Debating Championship (WSDC) in Nairobi, Kenya, alongside two other Nigerian students, on July 19.

The World Schools Debating Championship is widely regarded as the world's premier secondary school debating competition,

bringing together more than 500 exceptional students from over 80 countries across six continents.

Chibusonma earned national recognition through exceptional debating performances, inspiring students across Nigeria with her eloquence, confidence and intellectual brilliance in several highly competitive local and national championships recently.

At the 2025 Shanahan Debate Championship, she served as Lead Speaker and captain of the Mater Amabilis College Debate Team, leading the team to an impressive performance while emerging as the Overall Best Speaker in recognition of her exceptional analytical ability, persuasive advocacy, and leadership.

Earlier this month, she further strengthened her reputation after finishing third overall at the Spark Nation National Debate Competition, confirming her status among Nigeria's finest and most promising young debaters nationwide.

Her participation at the global championship is a proud moment for Mater Amabilis College, Anambra State and Nigeria, as she competes against outstanding young debaters from across the world.





INFORMATION MINISTRY, ONITSHA NORTH LGA DEEPEN COLLABORATION TO SUPPORT SOLUDO'S DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

By Rose Oranye

The Anambra State Ministry of Information and Value Reformation and Onitsha North Local Government Area have deepened their collaboration to support Governor Charles Soludo's development agenda, focusing on value reformation, market modernisation, and improved service delivery at the grassroots.

This agreement was the outcome of the visit of the Commissioner for Information and Value Reformation, Dr Law Mefor, to the Mayor of Onitsha North LGA, Hon. Tony Nwora, at the council secretariat in Onitsha.

Dr Mefor, who was accompanied by the Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Dr Obiageli Uchebo, and some staff of the ministry, said the visit was strategic given the economic importance of Onitsha North, especially with the ongoing modernisation of the Onitsha Main Market, which Governor Soludo has described as a "signature project".

He explained that the Ministry of Information is expanding its mandate to activate the value reformation agenda with the cooperation of all mayors, working alongside stakeholders, CSOs, and CBOs. He mentioned legislation, moral suasion, and enforcement as a triadic approach to actualising the agenda.

The commissioner also identified signage, revenue, and environmental law enforcement as three areas where state and local government functions overlap, and called for better coordination between t he local government team and the Anambra Signage and Advertisement Agency (ANSAA), Anambra State Internal Revenue Service (AIRS), and other relevant agencies to prevent conflicts and double taxation.

He expressed dissatisfaction with complaints of harshness and extortion by some agents enforcing environmental laws, stressing that the goal is a clean environment, not necessarily revenue generation, and urged enforcement officers to act with a human face, even as he reiterated the governor's directive on zero cash collection.

He further explained that the ministry has posted information officers to LGAs to monitor activities for publicity and urged the mayor always to carry them along.

Responding, Mayor Nwora said the LGA was the first in the state to go cashless, having developed an app for revenue collection that enumerates stores. He said the new revenue structure with the state has largely addressed multiple taxation, and specific windows have been allocated to LGAs.

The mayor also said that sanitation and security remained top priorities. “All drainages in Onitsha North are clear. That is why the governor's state of emergency was just another day for us,” he said.

He announced that Onitsha North is now a sister city to a Chinese city, with a delegation expected next month to partner on waste-to-power and sanitation.

On complaints against enforcement officers, the mayor assured that the council is collaborating with the state to ensure enforcement remains “firm but humane".

