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DR. LAW MEFOR
COMMISSIONER FOR INFORMATION & VALUE REFORMATION

TOP NEWS

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LAUDING ANAMBRA'S MOVE FOR TOUGHER ENFORCEMENT AGAINST BUILDING COLLAPSE

Following the recent collapse of a building at Amaokpala in Orumba North Local Government Area, the Anambra State Government has introduced tougher measures to safeguard lives and property.

According to a press release signed by the Commissioner for Information and Value Reformation, Dr Law Mefor, part of the resolutions of the Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC) at its 7th meeting of the second term of the Soludo administration on Monday, July 27, 2026, was that engineers and approving officials found culpable in building collapse incidents will be held accountable. This will include prosecution where negligence or other unlawful actions are established.

The Council further directed the intensification of integrity tests on mass housing facilities, including students' hostels across the state, to avert disasters associated with structural failures.

As a matter of fact, the Amaokpala building collapse is a tragic reminder of the urgent need for stricter enforcement of building regulations and professional standards as building collapse is often linked to poor construction practices, substandard materials, inadequate supervision and professional negligence.

It is commendable that the Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC) took such timely decisions since the state must not wait for another tragedy before acting.

In as much as the ANSEC directive is a step in the right direction, its effectiveness will depend on consistent and impartial enforcement. Necessary government ministries, departments and agencies must therefore, ensure that every building in the state must be constructed to approved standards because the safety of human lives should always come first.

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SOLUDO @66: THE DISRUPTIVE SOLUTION CONTINUES

By Law Mefor

As Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo, CFR, marks his 66th birthday anniversary today, it is crucial to recall that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, in a personally signed letter dated November 9, 2025, wrote: "Governor Soludo, the Solution, has demonstrated that indeed knowledge is power and that academic principles can be applied in serving the people, undergirding accountability, transparency and prudent management of people and resources."

With such a strong ally in President Tinubu, Governor Soludo is well positioned at 66. The plaudits have come from far and wide, but Soludo remains as ever his personable self, focusing on the job at hand and refusing to get carried away by the applause.

It's not difficult to see why Governor Soludo is justly celebrated. He came to governance well prepared. He stressed from the very beginning that what he has on offer is disruptive change. He was so successful in his first tenure that the people of Anambra across the board decided on their own to fund his re-election campaign without the amiable governor contributing a dime!

He took the byname "Oluatuegwu" – that is, "A leader who is not afraid of duty" – in his stride while delivering multiform democracy dividends.

In his scheme of visionary leadership, Soludo understands that security is the first principle of a functional state. Before his ascent to the governorship seat, vicious non-state actors held as many as 8 local government areas in Anambra State captive. The so-called "Unknown Gunmen" of that lamentable era had shrines and covens and registers of kidnapped men and women who paid immense ransoms, even as some of the kidnapped were brutally killed. Soludo cleared more than 60 of those vile camps and also went after their evil witch-doctors and ezenwanyis. It was a rout! He put in place the security network of Agunechemba and Udogachi, backed by the Anambra Homeland Security Law. He dealt a death blow to the get-rich-quick native doctors and pastors. He also put a stop to the Monday-sit-at-home oppression holding the people and the economy down in a devastating manner.

In the sphere of road infrastructure, Soludo is effectively in a class of his own. At the last count, nearly one thousand kilometres of roads were under construction, with well over 600 kilometres already asphalted

and completed. The state-of-the-art Ekwulobia Flyover will be commissioned on the 35th anniversary of the creation of Anambra State on August 27. Soludo has strategically linked up all the sections of Anambra State with broad and durable dual carriageways.

There was a time when Anambra State was derided for using a construction company's makeshift quarters as its government house! Soludo broke the jinx with the construction of the magnificent Light House that beats all other government houses in the country for class.

Of course Soludo stood for First-in-the-Class as a pupil and student of distinction in his younger days and netted a first-class degree at the university. It is therefore his duty to give education a central place in his administration. He has given employment to 8,115 teachers from across the country, not minding state of origin, and he has built 22 smart schools. He has emplaced free education in Anambra State from KG to secondary schooling and has put a stop to the money-making gambit of ill-assorted "graduation" ceremonies from nursery to college. It is no surprise, then, that Anambra has the lowest number of out-of-school children in Nigeria.

The health of Anambra State is in fine fettle under Soludo's watch. Soludo has constructed five new general hospitals and rehabilitated 130 primary health centres. 40 ambulance stations are functional, and the digital healthcare system with telemedicine capacity is operational. Soludo has recruited some 1,500 diverse health workers. Anambra today offers free childbirth and antenatal care.

New cities are being set up in Anambra State, such as Awka 2.0, Greater Niger around Onitsha, and the groundbreaking Aerotropolis. The Solution Fun City wins the diadem as the greatest leisure and entertainment complex in the West African sub-region. There are more dimensions to treasure, like the Anambra Mixed-Use Industrial City, the Agulu Lake Beach Resort, the Awka City Park etc. It will all be capped off with a 10-storey five-star hotel. A state rail master plan is also in the works.

From the background, 70 per cent goes for brawn while 30 per cent stands for brain. As much as 79 per cent of the state budget is deployed to capital projects, thus turning Anambra State into a sprawling construction site. About N1.5 billion in subsidized loans have been provided for micro, small, and medium enterprises via the Anambra State Small Business Agency (ASBA). Over 20,000 youths have been trained in digital skills at the Solution Innovation District with partners such as Microsoft and Wootlab. The government has provided N80 million in funding for 80 start-ups, while the "One-Youth-Two-Skills" programme has been quite exponential.

For Soludo, the more critical aspect is value reformation, which he has entrusted me with. Governor Soludo is principally interested in the "politics of development" as opposed to the "politics of handouts." There should be no argument that politics geared toward development should trump the facetious politics of handing out freebies. The Anambra Way, as envisioned by Soludo, represents a solid stance on development that contrasts sharply with the fleeting nature of ill-assorted politicians bribing citizens with handouts. He remains the one leader who has his finger on the pulse of the people's progress.

At age 66, Soludo stands out as a reason to believe in Nigeria. His partnership with President Tinubu bodes well for the betterment of Anambra State and the larger Nigerian family. From his days of the revolutionary banking reforms as the Central Bank Governor that saved the Nigerian economy to his dream of turning Anambra into Africa's Dubai-Taiwan-Silicon Valley, hardly anybody can deign to vote against Soludo and win.

'Soludo' stands for 'solution', as President Tinubu keeps affirming. We too affirm.

Happy 66th birthday, Mr Governor!



FREE FIBROID SURGERIES BEGIN AT ENUGU-UKWU GENERAL HOSPITAL UNDER SOLUDO'S HEALTHCARE INITIATIVE



By Stanley Nwako

Free fibroid surgeries have commenced at Enugu-Ukwu General Hospital as part of a medical outreach organised by the Friends of Governor Prof. Chukwuma Soludo in honour of the birthdays of Governor Chukwuma Soludo and his wife, Dr. (Mrs.) Nonye Soludo.

The programme, which offers free medical screening, treatment and surgeries to residents of Anambra State, is aimed at easing the financial burden on patients who require specialised medical care. The exercise covers free myomectomy for women with fibroids and ovarian cysts, as well as other surgical interventions in designated hospitals across the state.

Speaking during the commencement of the exercise, the Chief Medical Officer of Enugwu-Ukwu General Hospital, Dr. Dozie Udeolisa, described the initiative as a life-changing intervention that is giving many women access to surgeries they could not previously afford.

Speaking during the commencement of the exercise, the Chief Medical Officer of Enugwu-Ukwu General Hospital, Dr. Dozie Udeolisa, described the initiative as a life-changing intervention that is giving many women access to surgeries they could not previously afford.

According to him, fibroid surgery is often beyond the financial reach of many families, causing patients to live with pain and complications for years.

Dr. Udeolisa explained that Enugwu-Ukwu General Hospital is one of the designated centres for the exercise, where women who successfully completed the registration and screening process are now undergoing surgery.

He said screening began before the commencement of operations, while a team of experienced surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and other healthcare professionals has been mobilised to ensure safe and successful procedures.

The chief medical officer noted that each operation is handled according to the patient's medical condition, stressing that there is no fixed duration for surgery because every case is different.

He described the turnout of beneficiaries as encouraging, adding that many women who had postponed treatment because of financial difficulties are now receiving the care they need without paying for the surgery.

Dr. Udeolisa expressed appreciation to Governor Soludo and the Friends of the Governor for supporting the initiative, describing it as a practical demonstration of compassion and commitment to improving healthcare delivery in Anambra State.

The medical outreach also features free cataract surgery, glaucoma screening and treatment at the Anambra State Specialist Eye Centre, Nise, as well as free hernia surgeries at General Hospital, Umueri.

ANAMBRA GOVERNMENT BEGINS DEMOLITION OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN ONITSHA MAIN MARKET, OTHER AREAS

By Chukwuka Ugokwe



The Anambra State Government has commenced the demolition of illegal structures obstructing traffic, violating approved building setbacks around Onitsha Main Market and adjoining areas, following the expiration of a series of removal notices issued to affected traders and roadside business operators.

The enforcement exercise, carried out on July 26, targeted illegal roadside shops and other unapproved structures located at the Bright Street and Johnson Street entrances to the market, where they had impeded the free flow of traffic and pedestrian movement.

During the exercise, some affected traders were seen removing their goods from the structures, while officials monitored the operation to maintain order.

The enforcement team demolished a building comprising 16 lock up shops located in front of an iconic building along New Market Road, citing violations of the state's physical planning and setback regulations.

Leading the exercise, the Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Barr. Chijioke Ojukwu, said the demolition followed the expiration of multiple notices served on the owners of the affected structures.

According to him, the ministry issued three separate removal notices and engaged town criers to notify traders and shop owners to vacate the affected locations and remove their belongings before the commencement of the exercise.

Barr. Ojukwu explained that the operation forms part of the government's ongoing efforts to restore order, improve traffic flow, and enforce compliance with the state's physical planning laws.

He reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to sustained monitoring and enforcement to prevent illegal developments, promoting orderly urban planning across Anambra State.

Reacting to the exercise, the President-General of the Anambra State Amalgamated Traders Association (ASMATA), Chief Humphrey Anuna, commended the state government for restoring order around the market, urging traders to comply with government directives to avoid future sanctions.



TRANSPORT OPERATORS IN ONITSHA BACK ANAMBRA'S PARK DIGITISATION PLAN, HIGHLIGHT ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

By Doris Onyekachi

Major transport operators in Onitsha, Anambra State's commercial hub, have thrown their weight behind the state government's proposed plan to digitise and standardise motor parks, describing the initiative as a timely step towards modernising the transport sector.

Speaking in separate interviews, the operators said the proposed reforms would improve efficiency, transparency and service delivery, pledging their support for government policies aimed at repositioning the transport industry.

Among those who spoke were Mr. Felix Ikejiaku of Onitsha South Mass Transit, Mr. Okeke Ezeudo of Star Sunny Motors, the Depot Manager of Romchi Mass Transit, Mr. Barnabas Itodo, Mr. Jekwu Chukwu and Mr. Onyekachukwu Emena of Ifeanyichukwu Transport.

While expressing support for the digitisation initiative, the operators lamented the harsh economic conditions affecting the transport business, identifying the removal of fuel subsidy, rising fuel prices, insecurity, multiple taxation and the activities of transport touts as major factors reducing passenger traffic, night travel, and overall business operations.

Mr. Ikejiaku said the impact on transport operators had been significant.

He, however, expressed optimism that the newly appointed Commissioner for Transport would address the issue of multiple taxation, creating a more conducive operating environment.

Also speaking, Mr. Barnabas Itodo noted that the growing use of online transactions and waybill services has significantly reduced the number of passengers travelling to purchase goods in person.

He appealed to the government to introduce additional policies that would stimulate growth in the transport sector and improve operators' livelihoods.

The operators reaffirmed their readiness to embrace the digitisation and standardisation of motor parks.



WORLD HEPATITIS DAY 2026: SOLUDO ADMINISTRATION REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO COMBATING VIRAL HEPATITIS

By Obianuju Isima



As the world commemorated World Hepatitis Day on July 28, the Anambra State Government, under the leadership of Governor Chukwuma Soludo, has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening healthcare delivery, expanding disease prevention initiatives, promoting public awareness to reduce the burden of viral hepatitis across the state.

The 2026 global theme, "Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down," calls for the removal of barriers to hepatitis prevention, testing, treatment and care while addressing stigma and misinformation that continue to hinder efforts to eliminate the disease.

In line with this commitment, the Soludo administration has continued to invest in the health sector through the revitalisation of primary healthcare centres, improved access to quality healthcare services, routine immunisation, health education and strengthened disease surveillance. These interventions are aimed at preventing and managing viral hepatitis, particularly hepatitis B and C, which can lead to liver cirrhosis and liver cancer if left untreated.

The government encourages residents to know their hepatitis status through regular screening, receive the hepatitis B vaccine where eligible, adopt healthy practices and seek prompt medical attention when necessary. Early diagnosis and timely treatment remain essential to preventing severe complications and reducing transmission.

The state government called on healthcare professionals, community leaders, development partners, civil society organisations and residents to intensify awareness campaigns and work collaboratively towards eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health threat.

As Anambra joins the global community in observing World Hepatitis Day, the Soludo administration reaffirmed its resolve to build a healthier state through sustained investments in healthcare, disease prevention, and equitable access to quality medical services.



Agha Mba's Sports Reforms Earn Praise From ANSFA

By Chidinma Ajemba

The Anambra State Football Association (ANSFA) has commended the Commissioner for Youth Development and Sports, Mr. Patrick Agha Mba, for his visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to the advancement of sports development across the state.

The commendation was contained in a goodwill message issued by the association on July 25, in which it expressed appreciation to sports enthusiasts within and outside Anambra State for their continued support towards the growth of football and other sporting activities. The message, signed by the ANSFA Media Aide, Neto Abrahams, also prayed for God's continued blessings upon Anambra State and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

According to the association, the commissioner's purposeful leadership has created an enabling environment for sports to thrive, with renewed emphasis on grassroots football and the identification, nurturing and development of young talents.

ANSFA noted that the ministry's strategic initiatives have strengthened football development while boosting the confidence of coaches, players, administrators and other stakeholders committed to promoting a vibrant sporting culture in the state.

It further acknowledged that although building a sustainable sporting culture is a demanding task, the commissioner's resilience, dedication and selfless service have continued to yield remarkable progress.



other stakeholders committed to promoting a vibrant sporting culture in the state.

SOLUDO APPROVES SAKAMORI GUTTER DESILTING AS FLOOD RELIEF BEGINS IN OKPOKO

By Ngozi Okoli

The long-awaited desilting of the Sakamori Gutter in Okpoko, Ogbaru Local Government Area of Anambra State, commenced on July 27 following the Anambra State Government's approval of measures to address the community's persistent flooding challenges.

The Chairman of Ogbaru Local Government Area, Hon. Kenneth Akwuobi, received ALITHO Construction Company, the first contractor mobilised for the project, as it arrived at Obodoukwu Road, Okpoko, to begin the desilting exercise.

Hon. Akwuobi described the intervention as a major milestone in the community's quest for a lasting solution to flooding. He expressed profound appreciation to Governor Chukwuma Soludo for responding positively to the sustained appeals of residents and community leaders.

The council chairman also commended the Commissioner for Works, Arc. Okey Ezeobi, for his role in facilitating the project, expressing confidence that the exercise would restore the drainage system, mitigate flooding, and improve environmental sanitation across the area.

He disclosed that while ALITHO Construction Company had already commenced operations, three additional construction firms were expected to join the exercise to ensure its timely and efficient completion.

Residents welcomed the development with enthusiasm, describing it as a long-awaited

intervention after years of recurring flooding that disrupted movement, damaged property, and posed serious environmental and public health risks.

Speaking during the commencement of the project, Comrade Anthony Okeke expressed gratitude to Governor Soludo for responding to the needs of the Okpoko community.

He noted that the intervention reflects the governor's responsive leadership and renewed commitment to improving the welfare and living conditions of the people of Ogbaru.



COMMISSIONER ONYEKESI URGES IKENGA WOMEN TO EMBRACE SAVINGS THROUGH WOMEN AFFINITY GROUPS

By Chinyere Ogbuagu/Ukpa Ewa

Women in Ikenga Community, Aguata Local Government Area of Anambra State have been urged to cultivate the habit of regular savings through Women Affinity Groups (WAGs) to improve their livelihoods and access economic empowerment opportunities under the Nigeria for Women Programme Scale-Up Project (NFWP-SU).

The charge was made by the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Welfare, Mrs. Esther Onyekesi, through the Commissioner II, Anambra State Civil Service Commission, Mrs. Philomina Okoli, during the Anambra NFWP-SU community entry and sensitisation programme held at Ikenga Progressive Union Secretariat, on July 24.

Mrs. Okoli explained that regular savings remained an important tool for women's economic advancement, noting that the commissioner, being an indigene of Ikenga, was particularly pleased that the project was being implemented under the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare.

Receiving the state coordinating team earlier at his palace, the traditional ruler of Ikenga Community, Igwe Akuakandu Chukwunonso Ezekafor (Ike Ikenga III of Ikenga) described the initiative as government unique intervention that surpassed previous empowerment efforts in the community. He expressed confidence that Ikenga would emerge as one of the best performing communities in Aguata under the project and urged women to maximise the opportunity.

Also in her remarks, the Local Government Field Supervisor (LFS), Dr. Ebere Okonkwo, said Governor Chukwuma Soludo brought the NFWP-SU to improve the welfare of women through financial inclusion and sustainable livelihoods. She maintained that Aguata was selected as the pilot LGA and the programme will be implemented across the three senatorial zones in the state.

Dr. Okonkwo, who applauded the impressive turnout of women, described it as a demonstration of their readiness to take up development opportunities while explaining that women would be supported to form WAGs where they would save regularly, expand their businesses and qualify for government support through the Community Investment Fund. She urged participants to take the programme seriously.

The Community Institution Builder (CIB), Mrs. Chiamaka Agbili, noted that only women aged 18 years and above with existing businesses would qualify to be members of WAG. She added that WAGs would be self selected, meet weekly and receive continuous training from Ward Facilitators, even as participants would also be trained on leadership skills.

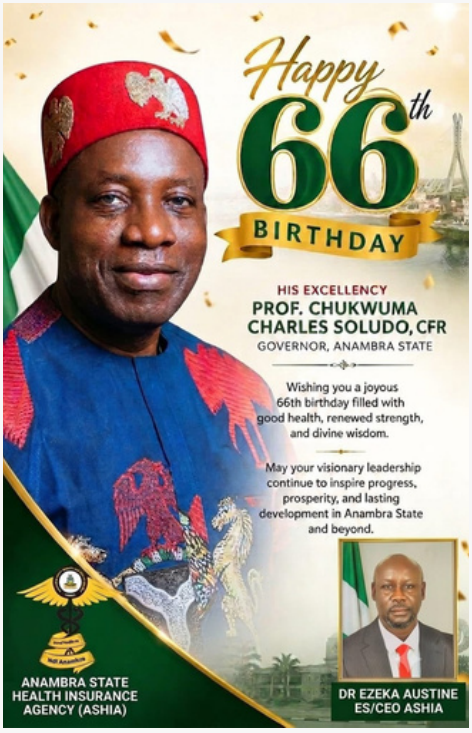
She highlighted additional benefits of the programme, including linkages to, financial institutions, health insurance services bank account opening and National Identity Number enrolment for underserved women. She explained that the WAG model was different from conventional savings and cooperative groups because participants data would be uploaded to the Federal Coordinating Unit for effective monitoring and accountability.

Delivering his session, the Project Livelihood Advisor, Dr. Ekene Adokwe, advised women to join WAGs where they would feel comfortable rather than following friends. He pointed out that the Community Investment Fund was designed to strengthen existing businesses and described the government loan as a revolving facility. He also appreciated the men who attended the sensitisation to support the women.

Furthermore, the Gender-Based Violence Anchor, Chinenye Ilona, during her presentation, said that the programme was inclusive and open to all eligible women residing in the community irrespective of their origin. She stressed that the project had zero tolerance for bribery, corruption, sexual exploitation and abuse or any form of discrimination, encouraging participants to always hold their meetings in safe environments.



ASHIA BOSS HAILS SOLUDO AT 66, LAUDS HEALTHCARE REFORMS IN ANAMBRA



By Chisom Okafor

The Executive Secretary/Chief Executive Officer of the Anambra State Health Insurance Agency (ASHIA), Dr. Augustine Ezeka, has congratulated the Governor of Anambra State, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, on the occasion of his 66th birthday, describing him as a visionary leader whose administration has transformed the state through purposeful governance and people-centred policies.

In a goodwill message issued on behalf of the management and staff of ASHIA, Dr. Ezeka celebrated the Governor, fondly addressed as Odenigbo Aguata, for his remarkable achievements across critical sectors of the state, particularly in healthcare.

He noted that Governor Soludo's administration has continued to redefine governance in Anambra through strategic investments in infrastructure, education, security, environmental sustainability and economic development, laying a solid foundation for a prosperous and liveable homeland.

The ASHIA boss particularly applauded the governor's unwavering commitment to strengthening the health sector through investments in health infrastructure, improved access to essential healthcare services, free antenatal and delivery services for pregnant women, and sustained support for primary healthcare across the state.

Dr. Ezeka further commended Governor Soludo for his steadfast support for health insurance, which has enabled ASHIA to expand coverage, deepen financial protection and provide more Ndi Anambra with access to quality healthcare without financial hardship.

He also acknowledged the governor's support for innovative healthcare initiatives, including the Adoption Model and the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF), describing them as impactful interventions that have expanded access to healthcare for vulnerable and underserved residents of the state.

Reaffirming ASHIA's commitment to supporting the Governor's vision of achieving Universal Health Coverage, Dr. Ezeka expressed appreciation for the confidence reposed in the agency and pledged to continue working toward ensuring that every resident of Anambra has access to affordable, quality healthcare.

He prayed that Almighty God would grant Governor Soludo continued wisdom, sound health, strength and divine guidance as he continues to provide transformational leadership for Anambra State and wished him a joyful and fulfilling 66th birthday celebration.

AGUIYI URGES PRESIDENT GENERALS TO COMBAT ENVIRONMENTAL NUISANCE IN ANAMBRA

By Kennedy Aniedozie

The Anambra State Commissioner for Environment, Dr Clem Aguiyi, has called on President Generals of communities in Anambra Central Senatorial District to take decisive action against environmental nuisance in their various towns in line with the Solution Government's vision of building a liveable and sustainable Anambra State.

Dr Aguiyi made the call during a meeting with Anambra Central Mayors and President Generals, held at the Awka South Local Government Secretariat, on July 27.

The commissioner warned that Anambra remains highly vulnerable to erosion, stressing that communities must take ownership of their environment to prevent further environmental degradation.



He noted that failure to address environmental challenges could worsen the menace of gully erosion, threatening lives, property and infrastructure across the state.

Dr Aguiyi urged the President Generals to closely monitor building activities in their communities, ensure proper construction of catchment pits, prevent the blockage of drainage channels and waterways, and encourage residents to plant more trees and create green areas as part of efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change.

He reaffirmed the commitment of the Ministry of Environment to working with community leaders to promote environmental sustainability and safeguard the future of Anambra State.







ASUBEB COMMENDS AGUATA MAYOR AS EDUCATION DAY REWARDS EXCELLENCE

By Charity Ejiofor

The Anambra State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB) has commended the Mayor of Aguata Local Government Area, Dr. Chibueze Ofobuike, for his commitment to advancing education in the council area.

Speaking during the 2026 Aguata Education Day, held at the Aguata Local Government Secretariat on July 27, the Chairman of ASUBEB, Dr. Justina Anyadiegwu, described the initiative as a practical demonstration of Governor Chukwuma Soludo's vision for grassroots development through quality education.

Dr. Anyadiegwu stated that Aguata has distinguished itself as a model for other local government areas by placing education at the forefront of its development agenda. She applauded Mayor Ofobuike for institutionalising Aguata Education Day as a platform for promoting academic excellence and recognising outstanding teachers and students.

She reaffirmed ASUBEB's support for the initiative and encouraged other local government councils in the state to adopt similar programmes aimed at improving educational standards.

Delivering the keynote address, the Vice-Chancellor of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Prof. Kate Azuka Omenugha, underscored the importance of quality basic education in nurturing future leaders. She urged teachers to serve as positive role models and mentors by instilling sound moral values and contributing to the holistic development of children.

Also speaking, the Chairman of the Anambra State House of Assembly Committee on Education, Hon. Anayo Okpalaeke, commended the mayor for his sustained investment in the education sector and his efforts to promote academic excellence in Aguata.

As part of the celebration, outstanding teachers from public primary and secondary schools across the 14 communities in Aguata Local Government Area were honoured with awards and gifts. The overall best teachers in both categories received brand-new Nexus chest freezers in recognition of their dedication and outstanding service.

The event also celebrated exceptional students for their academic achievements.

Master Onyeka Bonaventure of Community Primary School, Ekwulobia, emerged winner of the Evergreen Quest Competition and was awarded a N36million scholarship to Evergreen College, Enugu. The scholarship covers tuition, accommodation, feeding, clothing, and international exposure.

Similarly, Miss Maduabuchukwu Karen Agu of Holy Child Secondary School, Isuofia, emerged winner of the 2026 Aguata Best Student Challenge. She received a cash prize of N500,000 and a brand-new laptop, while all 20 finalists were awarded full scholarships to study in any public university in Nigeria.



BENEFICIARIES COMMEND GOVERNOR SOLUDO AFTER SUCCESSFUL FREE SURGERIES

By Stanley Nwako



The Beneficiaries of the Anambra State Government's free surgery programme have expressed profound appreciation to Governor Chukwuma Soludo for providing life-changing medical interventions at no cost through the Friends of Soludo initiative.

At Umueri General Hospital, beneficiaries who underwent free hernia surgeries praised Governor Soludo for easing their financial burden through the healthcare intervention organised to mark his 66th birthday. They described the programme as a timely initiative that restored hope to many families who could not afford the cost of surgery.

One of the beneficiaries, Elder Sunday Odogwu from Awkuzu, who underwent a successful hernia surgery, described the medical care he received as exceptional. He said the operation was carried out by experienced specialists and that he was grateful for the opportunity to receive treatment free of charge.

Mrs. Nkiruka Nweke from Oyi Local Government Area, whose son successfully underwent a free hernia surgery, said the programme came as a huge relief to her family because they could not afford the cost of treatment. She also commended the Commissioner for Health, Dr. Afam Obidike, for personally supervising the exercise to ensure its success.

Also speaking, Mr. Nwoko Nicholas from Umuchukwu in Orumba South Local Government Area, who underwent a successful hernia surgery, said the sickness had placed a heavy financial burden on him and his family for years. He thanked Governor Soludo for including free surgeries among the activities marking his 66th birthday, describing the intervention as life-changing and one that restored hope to his household.

At the Anambra State Specialist Eye Care Centre, Nise, beneficiaries who underwent free eye surgeries also commended Governor Soludo for expanding access to quality healthcare across the state.

One of the beneficiaries, Mrs. Ogechi Dunu, expressed heartfelt gratitude after undergoing a successful eye surgery. She said she had lived with the eye condition for a long time but was unable to seek treatment because of financial challenges.

According to her, hearing about the free surgery programme brought renewed hope, and she was overwhelmed with joy when she was selected to benefit from the initiative.

The beneficiaries collectively prayed for God's continued guidance, wisdom, good health and long life for Governor Soludo as he continues to implement people-centred healthcare programmes aimed at improving access to quality medical services across Anambra State.

ANAMBRA GOVERNMENT WARNS DEVELOPERS, PROPOSES LAND FORFEITURE AND CRIMINAL PROSECUTION FOR BUILDING COLLAPSE



By Bonaventure Alufo

The Anambra State Government has announced plans to adopt stricter measures to curb incidents of building collapse, including recommending the forfeiture of lands where buildings collapse and pursuing criminal prosecution against those found negligent.

The Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Barr. Chijioke Ojukwu, disclosed this on July 27, while inspecting the site of a three-storey building that collapsed in Amaokpala, near Oko, in Orumba North Local Government Area.

Describing the incident as unfortunate, the commissioner said although building collapse is a national challenge, the Anambra State Government is determined to strengthen the enforcement of physical planning laws to protect lives and property.

Describing the incident as unfortunate, the commissioner said although building collapse is a national challenge, the Anambra State Government is determined to strengthen the enforcement of physical planning laws to protect lives and property.

Barr. Ojukwu revealed that the government would recommend the forfeiture of the land where the Amaokpala building collapsed as a deterrent to developers who violate the state's physical planning regulations.

According to him, preliminary findings indicate that the building had shown signs of structural distress, yet the owners and managers allegedly continued to rent it out instead of evacuating the occupants.

The commissioner warned that the government would pursue all available legal options against anyone found culpable, including criminal prosecution for negligence.

He cautioned developers, builders and property owners to comply strictly with approved building regulations, stressing that only qualified and licensed professionals should be engaged in construction projects.

Barr. Ojukwu disclosed that the state government intends to amend the physical planning law to make it mandatory for every construction site to prominently display the names and licence details of the professionals handling each project.

He added that the government would constitute an investigative panel comprising chairmen and secretaries of relevant professional bodies to determine the immediate and remote causes of the Amaokpala building collapse and establish whether negligence contributed to the incident.

SOLUDOZIE VOLUNTEERS SEEK STRONGER PARTNERSHIP WITH ANAMBRA GOVERNMENT

By Henrietta Madichie

The Soludozie Anambra Volunteers and Ambassadors Network, has called for stronger collaboration with the Anambra State Government to deepen grassroots participation in governance and support Governor Chukwuma Soludo's development agenda.

The appeal was made on Tuesday, during a courtesy visit by members of the non profit organisation to the Commissioner Ministry of Information and Value Reformation, Dr. Law Mefor, in Awka.

The group led by its Founder/Coordinator, Comrade Okechukwu Cyril Nwuche, said the NGO was established to mobilise citizens at the grassroots to embrace the Soludo Solution development agenda through volunteerism, community engagement and public enlightenment.



Nwuche added that the network promotes public private community partnerships by complementing government efforts in environmental sustainability, civic responsibility, value reorientation, sensitise/sanitise Anambra and other development initiatives, stressing that sustainable development requires active citizen participation.

Responding, Dr. Law Mefor commended the group's commitment to grassroots development through volunteerism and assured members of the ministry's support, noting that the state government believes in building infrastructure as well as self values and responsibility.

Mefor said the ministry would introduce the Soludozie Anambra Volunteers and Ambassadors Network to the body of Presidents-General to help facilitate collaboration with communities across Anambra and broaden the network's grassroots reach. He also advised the group to submit its operational manual for appraisal by ministry officials hence, Ministry of Information and Value Reformation is the host to champion the initiative.

He expressed confidence that the collaboration would enhance public participation in government programmes and contribute to sustainable development across Anambra State while commending them for their efforts in reaching 46 communities in Anambra urging them to do more.

Earlier, the supervising Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Value Reorientation, Pharm. Oby Uchebo, welcomed the delegation and commended the network's commitment to promoting volunteerism and community development, saying that the initiative is a welcome development.

In a vote of thanks, Mrs. Blessing Atuegbunam appreciated the commissioner for receiving the delegation and reaffirmed the network's commitment to supporting Governor Soludo's vision through sustained volunteerism, grassroots mobilisation and community engagement.

MEFOR URGES APGA WOMEN LEADERS TO INTENSIFY GRASSROOTS MOBILISATION

STRESSES THE NEED FOR ALIGNMENT WITH FG TO ATTRACT MORE FEDERAL PRESENCE TO ANAMBRA



By Rose Oranye

The Anambra State Commissioner for Information and Value Reformation, Dr Law Mefor, on Tuesday, received Idemili North All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) women leaders at his office in Awka.

Addressing the women, Mefor commended them for their loyalty to the party and commitment to supporting the programmes of Governor Chukwuma Soludo's administration.

He urged them to enhance grassroots mobilisation for future elections and advocate for President Tinubu's reelection.

"Women remain the backbone of grassroots mobilisation. As we approach future elections, I urge you to intensify your efforts and ensure our message gets to every household.

Idemili North is one of the pillars of APGA. It has the highest number of voters in Anambra. Anambra is APGA, and APGA needs to negotiate seriously. If Tinubu won when he wasn't in power, what of now? He got 5000 votes in Anambra, but he's doing a lot in Anambra because progressives are working together and due to his personal relationship with Governor Soludo," the commissioner said.

He maintained that the 2027 Presidential Election would be an opportunity for Ndi Anambra, particularly APGA members, to reciprocate the favour the state is getting from the federal level by voting for Tinubu to continue for a second tenure, noting that Governor Soludo's cordial relationship with President Tinubu is attracting good things to the state.

In their separate remarks, the leader of the delegation and Idemili North LGA APGA Women Leader, Mrs Uju Omile, and the Abatete APGA Women Leader, Mrs MaryAnn Anyaegbunam, said the visit was to congratulate the commissioner on his reappointment and thanked Governor Soludo for giving their son more opportunities to serve the state.

They assured the commissioner that they would sustain efforts to ensure APGA's victory in the coming elections.