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ANSEC'S VALEDICTORY SESSION FOR ORUTUGU: HONOUR WELL DESERVED

The decision of the Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC), at its 8th meeting held on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, under the chairmanship of Governor Professor Chukwuma Charles Soludo, CFR, to honour the retiring Assistant Inspector General of Police, Ikioye Livingston Orutugu, with a special valedictory session is a well-deserved tribute to a distinguished officer whose career exemplified professionalism, courage, integrity and unwavering dedication to public service.

The recognition reflects the state's appreciation of AIG Orutugu's invaluable contributions to strengthening security and fostering collaboration among security agencies during his tenure in Anambra State and also underscores the importance of celebrating exemplary service and inspiring a culture of excellence within the nation's security institutions.

This is because security remains the bedrock of development, and no government can successfully deliver on its promises without a peaceful environment.

During his tenure as Commissioner of Police in Anambra State, AIG Orutugu worked closely with the Soludo administration and other security agencies to strengthen the fight against crime and improve public safety. His collaborative leadership contributed significantly to restoring confidence and creating a more secure atmosphere for residents and businesses.

His promotion to the rank of Assistant Inspector General before his retirement is a prove to a career of excellence and unwavering commitment to the Nigeria Police Force.

As he bows out after attaining the mandatory retirement age of 60, his record of service stands as an inspiration to younger officers and all public servants.

By honouring AIG Orutugu, the Soludo-led ANSEC has demonstrated that integrity, diligence and selfless service deserve recognition. Such gestures encourage a culture of excellence within the public service and reinforce the values of accountability and dedication.

As Anambra continues to pursue the Solution 2.0 agenda, the partnership between government, security agencies and citizens remains essential in sustaining peace and accelerating development. The legacy of AIG Orutugu's service should inspire continued commitment to safeguarding lives and property across the state.

Indeed, good deeds deserve to be emulated. Public servants and security personnel should draw inspiration from AIG Orutugu's exemplary career by embracing integrity, discipline, professionalism and selfless service.

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COMMERCE DRIVES ANAMBRA'S ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

By Ebele Iyke-Odili

Strategic Partnerships, Msme Development, Market Reforms Position Anambra For Sustainable Growth

The Anambra State Ministry of Commerce has continued to play a strategic role in advancing Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo's vision of building a prosperous and business-friendly economy through deliberate policies, strategic partnerships and stakeholder engagement aimed at promoting commerce, supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), strengthening cooperative societies and expanding investment opportunities across the state.

Under the leadership of the Commissioner for Commerce, Mr. Nomso Chukwuma Ebonwu, the ministry has embarked on an aggressive engagement drive with critical national and international institutions, positioning Anambra as Nigeria's preferred destination for commerce, manufacturing and enterprise development. These engagements have yielded productive collaborations with agencies including the Bank of Industry (BOI), Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), SMEDAN, Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), Cooperative Federation of Anambra State (COFAS), financial institutions and organised private sector groups.

One of the ministry's major milestones was the successful support and endorsement of the 2026 Nigeria Business Summit Regional Tour, hosted in Onitsha, in collaboration with Stanbic IBTC Bank and other stakeholders. The summit brought

together entrepreneurs, manufacturers, exporters, financial institutions and business leaders to explore new opportunities for enterprise growth, access to finance and market expansion, further reinforcing Anambra's status as Nigeria's commercial hub.

The Commerce Ministry also intensified efforts towards promoting exports and industrial development through strategic discussions with the Nigerian Export Promotion Council and manufacturing clusters in Nnewi and Onitsha, while facilitating stronger relationships between government and private sector operators. These initiatives are expected to increase the competitiveness of locally manufactured products and create new opportunities for employment and wealth creation.

Recognising the importance of standardisation and quality assurance, the ministry strengthened collaboration with the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) to improve product quality, consumer protection and industrial competitiveness. The partnership will also facilitate the establishment of a permanent SON office in Anambra, bringing regulatory services closer to businesses and manufacturers.

In furtherance of Governor Soludo's commitment to inclusive economic growth, the ministry has continued to empower cooperative societies and market associations through regular stakeholder engagements, policy dialogue and capacity-building initiatives. It also actively participated in the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) Nationwide Town Hall Meeting and State Engagement, reaffirming Anambra's resolve to improve the ease of doing business through regulatory reforms and investor-friendly policies.

Speaking on the Ministry's achievements, the Commissioner for Commerce, Mr. Nomso Chukwuma Ebonwu, said the ministry remained committed to creating a vibrant commercial ecosystem where businesses can thrive.

"Our focus is to build strong partnerships that unlock opportunities for businesses, empower entrepreneurs, strengthen cooperatives and position Anambra as the leading destination for commerce and enterprise in Nigeria. Every engagement we undertake is geared towards creating jobs, increasing productivity and improving the standard of living of our people."

As the Soludo administration continues to implement its Solution Agenda, the Ministry of Commerce remains at the forefront of initiatives that stimulate economic growth, deepen public-private collaboration and create sustainable opportunities for businesses and investors, ensuring that Anambra retains its position as the commercial heartbeat of the South-East and one of Nigeria's fastest-growing economies.



ASUBEB TRAINS EDUCATION OFFICERS ON ONLINE ATTENDANCE APP



By Obianuju Umeh

The Anambra State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB) has commenced training for Education Management Information System (EMIS) personnel, heads of schools and education officers on the use of a newly developed Online Attendance App to enhance accountability, transparency and efficiency in the state's basic education system.

Declaring the one-day training open in Awka, the Executive Chairman of ASUBEB, Dr Justina Anyadiegwu, described the initiative as a major step towards advancing the digital transformation agenda of the Governor Chukwuma Soludo administration in the education sector.

Dr. Anyadiegwu said the Online Attendance App was a home grown solution designed to capture real time attendance, eliminate ghost workers,

ensure accurate payroll administration and improve service delivery in public basic schools. She said the initiative reflected the state government's commitment to leveraging technology and innovation to strengthen governance in education and ensure effective monitoring and accountability of teachers.

The ASUBEB Chairman commended Governor Soludo for his sustained investment in basic education, describing the application as another demonstration of the administration's resolve to build a smart and technology driven education system. Dr. Anyadiegwu also commended the technical team that developed the application, expressing confidence that its deployment would improve education management and further position Anambra as a leader in digital education administration.

Also speaking, the Director of Planning, Research and Statistics (PRS), Mrs Henrietta Muo, urged participants to engage actively in the training, noting that effective utilisation of the Online Attendance App would further strengthen accountability, transparency and operational efficiency in the administration of basic education across the state.

COOUTH NOW RUNS DIGITAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM WITH SMART TECHNOLOGIES – CMD

By Nkiru Anakor



The Chief Medical Director of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Teaching Hospital (COOUTH), Amaku, Awka, Dr. Maureen Uche Umeakuewulu, has refuted claims that the hospital still relies on outdated methods for surgical procedures, describing such assertions as false and misleading.

Speaking during an interview with journalists in her office, Dr. Umeakuewulu said the claims do not reflect the remarkable transformation taking place within the institution. She explained that COOUTH has fully embraced digital healthcare through its paperless initiative, introducing smart cards, Electronic Medical Records (EMR), and other technology-driven solutions aimed at improving patient care, boosting operational efficiency, and enhancing service delivery.

According to her, the hospital has successfully moved from manual processes to a modern digital healthcare system that promotes efficiency, accountability, seamless communication, accurate record management, and better patient outcomes. She noted that these innovations are positioning COOUTH among Nigeria's leading tertiary healthcare institutions while aligning its operations with global best practices in healthcare delivery.

Dr. Umeakuewulu further stated that the hospital's steady progress is evident in the continuous modernisation of its facilities and healthcare systems, urging the public to disregard misleading reports intended to undermine the institution's achievements.

She reaffirmed the commitment of the hospital's management, with the continued support of the Anambra State Government under the leadership of Governor Chukwuma Soludo, to sustain investments in digital innovation, critical infrastructure, modern medical equipment, and quality healthcare services for the benefit of Ndi Anambra.

GOV. SOLUDO LEADS CALL FOR MADE-IN-NIGERIA PRODUCTS AT DELTA ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT SUMMIT



By MaryAnn Chukwuma

The Anambra State Governor, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, has led a strong call for Nigerians to embrace Made-in-Nigeria products as a sustainable strategy for creating jobs and accelerating economic growth.

Governor Soludo made the call while delivering a speech at the opening ceremony of the Delta State Economic and Investment Summit 2026, held on, August 3, in Asaba, Delta State.

He said Nigeria cannot create the kind of jobs its growing population requires while citizens continue patronising imported goods instead of supporting products manufactured

by local industries and entrepreneurs. The Governor noted that many participants wore suits imported from Europe, America and China, urging Nigerians to deliberately promote African-made products, especially those proudly produced within the country.

Sharing his personal experience, Governor Soludo disclosed that he has consistently worn Akwete fabric, produced in Akwete, Abia State, after his daughter introduced the indigenous textile to him in 2019.

He explained that sustained patronage of the fabric has improved the livelihoods of women producing Akwete cloth, increased employment opportunities and expanded income within the local textile-producing community.

Governor Soludo also applauded Nigeria's First Lady for announcing a N2 billion intervention to expand Akwete fabric production and for pledging to wear the indigenous textile at official national ceremonies.

According to him, if Nigeria's estimated 247 million citizens consistently choose Made-in-Nigeria products, the country could create more than 10 million jobs while strengthening local industries and reducing import dependence.

He further proposed that future economic summits should encourage participants to wear Made-in-Nigeria attire, stressing that deliberate support for indigenous products would stimulate industrialisation, employment and sustainable national prosperity.



ANAMBRA STAKEHOLDERS INTENSIFY CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING, WARN YOUTHS AGAINST ONLINE SCAMS

By Chinelo Okeke

A coalition of government agencies, security organisations and civil society groups has intensified efforts to combat human trafficking in Anambra State through a public awareness campaign held in Awka.

The campaign brought together the Federation of International Women Lawyers (FIDA) Nigeria, Anambra State Branch, the Anambra State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), the Nigeria Immigration Service, the Network Against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour (NACTAL), and several other civil society organisations.

The event, organised to commemorate the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, was themed "Trapped Behind the Scam." As part of the programme, participants embarked on a sensitisation walk to major locations across Awka, including Aroma Junction and several motor parks, where they educated residents, commercial drivers and commuters on the dangers and warning signs of human trafficking.

They also encouraged the public to report suspicious activities, reinforcing the message: "If you see something, say something."

Speaking during the event, the Anambra State Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Mrs. Esther Chinyere Onyekesi, described proceeds from human trafficking as "blood money" and urged residents to reject all forms of trafficking and exploitation.

Chairperson of FIDA Nigeria, Anambra State Branch, Mrs. Amara Muojeke, warned that offenders risk severe penalties under the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act and the Anambra State Child Rights Law of 2004. She condemned the practice of using underage children as domestic workers, urging parents to have only the number of children they can adequately care for and educate.

Mrs. Muojeke further noted that the Universal Basic Education Act guarantees every child's right to education up to Junior Secondary School (JSS 3), stressing that denying children this opportunity exposes them to exploitation.

Representing NACTAL, Miss. Eucharia Onyemaobi said the awareness campaign became necessary due to the increasing cases of human trafficking in the state. She described human trafficking as a global menace and cautioned young people against desperation for quick wealth, warning that many victims are lured through fraudulent social media schemes.

According to her, organisations such as the Davina Foundation, the Association of Orphans and Vulnerable Children, and other non-governmental organisations are actively supporting NACTAL's campaign against trafficking.

Also speaking, the Permanent Secretary, Anambra State Ministry of Lands, Mrs. Nkiru Mokwe, said sustained public enlightenment was essential to winning the fight against human trafficking and creating a safer society.



ASUWAHC UNVEILS NEW STRATEGY TO IMPROVE WATER SUPPLY ACROSS ANAMBRA

By Obinwa Chikaodili

The Anambra State Urban Water Assets Holding Corporation (ASUWAHC) has unveiled a comprehensive strategy aimed at strengthening water production, distribution and service delivery across the state as part of renewed efforts to provide residents with safe, reliable and sustainable potable water.

The resolutions were reached on August 3,2026, during a technical meeting on the operations and management of water supply schemes, convened by the Officer-in-Charge of the Corporation, Mrs. Emmanuella Okafor, where management reviewed the corporation's core mandates, assessed operational challenges and



outlined key actions to improve performance across all water schemes.

Speaking during the meeting, Mrs. Okafor urged them to intensify oversight of water production and distribution operations while ensuring timely submission of weekly operational reports. She noted that improved reporting, effective supervision and accountability would enhance operational efficiency and guarantee sustainable water service delivery across the state's water schemes.

She further directed scheme managers to ensure prompt repairs of leakages on primary and secondary pipelines, stressing that every water scheme should operate with a clearly defined distribution timetable to guarantee equitable water supply to residential, commercial, industrial and public institutions.

The meeting also reaffirmed ASUWAHC's commitment to maintaining high standards of water quality through regular laboratory testing and strict compliance with national and international drinking water standards.

Management on the other hand disclosed plans to strengthen the Corporation's Water Safety Plan and build the capacity of technical personnel through specialised training to ensure the continued supply of safe and potable water.

In furtherance of its commitment to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), ASUWAHC reaffirmed its resolve to promote cleaner and healthier communities by strengthening hygiene promotion initiatives and expanding WASH programmes across the state.

To broaden support for the water sector, Mrs. Okafor announced the establishment of a Donor Agency Partnership Committee to coordinate engagement with donor agencies and development partners for financial and technical assistance towards improving water infrastructure and service delivery.

The committee comprises all zonal heads and the Planning Officer, with the Officer-in-Charge serving as Chairperson and Engr. Francis Udoh as Secretary. The meeting also stressed the need to strengthen the security of the corporation's assets, improve performance monitoring through timely submission of reports, and enhance water tariff collection to boost internally generated revenue for sustainable operations.



ARTMA Reminds Electric Bike Riders To Obtain Waiver, Comply With Safety Regulations

By Obianuju Isima

The Anambra Road Traffic Management Agency (ARTMA) has reminded all owners and operators of electric motorcycles intending to use major roads across Anambra State to obtain the required waiver from the Anambra State Ministry of Transport, just as other commercial motorcycle operators are required to do.

The agency made this known in a public notice published on Aug. 4, 2026, on its official Facebook page, where it reiterated the importance of complying with the state's traffic regulations to promote road safety and ensure orderly transportation across Anambra State.

ARTMA emphasised that all electric bike riders must wear approved crash helmets while riding, in line with the state's traffic and road safety regulations.

The agency also urged all road users to obey traffic rules, respect road signs and cooperate with traffic management officials in order to enhance safety and ensure free flow of traffic across the state.



AIG ORUTUGU BEGINS THANK-YOU TOUR, PAYS COURTESY VISIT TO AWKA MONARCH



By Chizoba Njaka

As part of activities marking his transition to the next stage of his policing career, the Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG), Ikioye Orutugu, on August 3, commenced a thank-you tour of key stakeholders across Anambra State with a courtesy visit to the palace of the traditional ruler of Awka Kingdom, Igwe Gibson Nwosu.

According to the Anambra State Police Public Relations Officer, SP Tochukwu Ikenga, the visit was to express the AIG's sincere appreciation to the traditional institution and the people of Awka for their unwavering

support, cooperation, and partnership throughout his tenure as Commissioner of Police in Anambra State.

Speaking during the visit, AIG Orutugu thanked the monarch for his steadfast commitment to the activities of the Anambra State Police Command and other security agencies in advancing peace, security, and public safety across the state. He noted that the successes recorded by the Police Command during his tenure were the result of the collective support and collaboration of the Anambra State Government, traditional rulers, community leaders, security stakeholders, and residents of the state.

The AIG stressed that lasting security can only be achieved through sustained cooperation among the police, traditional institutions, and members of the public. He therefore appealed for continued support for the police command and other security agencies in their shared responsibility of safeguarding lives and property in Anambra State.

In his remarks, the traditional ruler of Awka Kingdom, Igwe Gibson Nwosu, congratulated AIG Orutugu on his well-deserved promotion to the rank of Assistant Inspector-General of Police. The monarch praised the AIG for his exemplary leadership, professionalism, and outstanding contributions to strengthening security and boosting public confidence in policing during his tenure as Commissioner of Police in Anambra State.

He wished AIG Orutugu greater success, divine guidance, and wisdom as he takes on higher responsibilities in the Nigeria Police Force.

ANAMBRA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO INDUSTRIAL ENERGY SOLUTIONS AT MAN SYMPOSIUM



By Onyinyechi Edokwe

The Anambra State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting industrial growth through sustainable energy solutions and investment friendly policies to boost manufacturing and economic development.

The Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Mrs. Chiamaka Nnake, gave the assurance while declaring open the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) South East Industrial Energy Solutions and Investment Symposium on behalf of Governor Chukwuma Soludo.

She described the symposium as timely, saying manufacturers across the country were grappling with rising energy costs that continued to undermine productivity, competitiveness and industrial expansion.

Mrs Nnake said the symposium would not only identify prevailing energy challenges but also provide practical, innovative and sustainable solutions to meet the needs of manufacturers. The SSG commended the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) and the MAN Power Development Company Limited (MPDCL) for initiating the Industrial Energy Adoption Programme aimed at linking manufacturers with government institutions, regulators, technology providers, engineering partners and financing organisations to facilitate access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

According to her, the Soludo administration remains committed to industrialisation through progressive policies, strategic partnerships and investment driven initiatives that promote innovation, enterprise development and inclusive economic growth. She said affordable and reliable energy remained essential to improving industrial productivity, attracting investment, creating employment opportunities and enhancing the competitiveness of local industries.

The symposium attracted participants from government, regulatory agencies, financial institutions, technology providers, development partners and the manufacturing sector to explore collaborative strategies for reducing industrial energy costs and strengthening industrial competitiveness across the South-East. Mrs. Nnake reaffirmed the Anambra State Government's support for initiatives that align with the Soludo administration's vision of positioning the state as Nigeria's preferred destination for investment, industrialisation and sustainable economic prosperity.

Agha Mba Commissions Xfit Table Tennis Club Championship Finals, Advocates Grassroots Sports Development

By Ifeoma Anigbado

The Anambra State Commissioner for Youth Development and Sports, Mr. Patrick Agha Mba, has commissioned the finals of the Xfit Table Tennis Club Championship, sponsored by Mezie, describing the tournament as an impressive display of sporting excellence and a testament to the growing profile of table tennis in the state.

The championship attracted table tennis enthusiasts, athletes, coaches, and other stakeholders, who witnessed keenly contested matches and remarkable performances as participants competed for top honours.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Agha Mba commended the Managing Director of Xfit Table Tennis Club and the championship sponsor, Mezie, for their unwavering commitment to promoting sports development and nurturing athletic talent in Anambra State. He noted that the successful staging of the championship aligns with Governor Chukwuma Soludo's People-Centered Progressive Change (PPCP) model under the Solution Agenda, which prioritises youth development, grassroots sports, and talent discovery.

The commissioner described sports as a vital instrument for youth empowerment, healthy living, social cohesion, and the identification of future champions, stressing the need for sustained investment in grassroots sporting initiatives.

He further urged the management of Xfit Table Tennis Club to establish a table tennis academy dedicated to identifying, training, and nurturing young talents from an early age, noting that such an initiative would strengthen the club's developmental efforts and contribute significantly to the growth of the sport across the state.



Mr. Agha Mba congratulated the winners, the leadership, and members of Xfit Table Tennis Club for the successful organisation of the championship, applauding their dedication to advancing table tennis in Anambra State.

He assured the club of the ministry's continued collaboration and support, reaffirming the Soludo administration's commitment to sports development and youth empowerment as part of its broader vision for sustainable development in the state.



NVMA URGES ANAMBRA GOVT TO ESTABLISH MINISTRY OF VETERINARY SERVICES, LIVESTOCK DEV.



By Stella Okpalaeze

The Nigeria Veterinary Medical Association (NVMA), Anambra State Chapter, has called on the Anambra State Government to establish a Ministry of Veterinary Services and Livestock Development to accelerate the growth of the livestock sector and strengthen animal health, food safety and economic development.

The association made the appeal in a communiqué issued at the end of the Anambra Livestock Expo 2026, held at the Nnewi North Local Government Secretariat under the theme, "Ensuring and Sustaining the Availability of Animal Protein in the Diet of Our Local Communities."

The communiqué, signed by the State Chairman of the association, Dr. Victor Ughaerumba, and the Assistant Secretary, Dr. Favour Okwaraeke, stated that creating a dedicated ministry would provide the institutional framework for improved policy formulation, strategic planning, funding, research, innovation and effective implementation of livestock development programmes.

According to the association, a specialised ministry would enhance livestock production and productivity, strengthen surveillance and control of animal diseases, improve veterinary public health and contribute significantly to the state's economic growth and food security.

Dr. Ughaerumba noted that although the Ministry of Agriculture has continued to make commendable contributions to the agricultural sector, livestock development requires greater attention because of its critical role in nutrition, employment generation and public health. He said establishing a dedicated ministry would mark a significant step towards repositioning the livestock industry, expanding opportunities for farmers, increasing animal protein production and attracting greater investment to the sector.

The association expressed concern over the poor state of government veterinary clinics across the state, calling for their urgent renovation and improved funding, urging the government to provide adequate manpower, essential veterinary drugs, modern diagnostic equipment and the operational support needed to deliver efficient veterinary services and advocated the establishment of modern abattoirs equipped with standard processing facilities, functional cold chain systems, effective waste management infrastructure and strengthened veterinary meat inspection services to safeguard public health and ensure food safety.

The association appealed to the state government to provide operational vehicles to enhance field surveillance, disease monitoring and emergency response, noting that improved logistics would strengthen its capacity to support government efforts in promoting animal health, increasing livestock productivity and protecting public health.



GOV SOLUDO APPROVES ANSOPADEC OPERATIONALISATION, ROAD PROJECT FOR OIL-PRODUCING COMMUNITIES

By Nwanneka Okechukwu

The Anambra State Governor, Prof Chukwuma Soludo has approved the operationalisation of the Anambra State Oil and Gas Producing Areas Development Commission (ANSOPADEC) in line with the law establishing the commission.

The State Executive Council also approved the construction of the road linking Atani Community to Umuezerabia Community in Ogbaru Local Government Area, where several oil wells are located.

The Commissioner for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Prof Charles Ofoegbu, disclosed this during a meeting with Ogbaru stakeholders at his office in the Jerome Udoji Secretariat, Awka. Prof Ofoegbu, alongside the Commissioner for Commerce and Industry, Mr. Nomso Ebonwu, also announced plans to establish a primary school and a Primary Healthcare Centre at Umuezerabia Community.

Prof. Ofoegbu revealed that the procurement process for both projects had reached an advanced stage, reaffirming the government's commitment to improving infrastructure and social services in the area.

The commissioner urged Ogbaru stakeholders to submit a comprehensive memorandum to Governor Soludo, outlining their developmental priorities and technical recommendations for addressing challenges associated with oil exploration and production. He assured them that the Soludo administration remains committed to the sustainable development of Ogbaru and ensuring that oil-producing communities receive the attention they deserve.

Speaking through the Secretary of the Ogbaru Summit Development Initiative, Hon Emmanuel Ifeachor, Igwe Awogu commended the government's efforts and appealed f or support in rural electrification, road infrastructure, improved security, and adequate representation of host communities in the benefits accruing from oil and gas activities.





Onitsha Main Market Remodeling: Comm Arize Assures Traders Of Fairness As Reconstruction Progresses



By Ekweaga Uzoma

The Anambra State Commissioner for Housing, Arc. Henry Arize, has assured traders at the Onitsha Main Market that the ongoing remodelling and reconstruction of the market will be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved architectural and engineering drawings.

The commissioner gave the assurance when executive members of the Niger Line and Johnson Street Line in the market visited his office at the Jerome Udoji Secretariat Complex, Awka, to express concerns over recent developments at the project site.

Addressing the delegation, Arc. Arize reaffirmed the state government's commitment to transparency, fairness, and due process in the execution of the project, and assured the traders that he would personally visit the site to assess the situation, emphasising that all construction activities must conform to the approved design.

He also stressed that any work found to be inconsistent with the approved plan would not be tolerated but assured the groups that their concerns would receive prompt attention, reiterating that the government remains committed to delivering a project that meets the interests of all stakeholders.

Earlier, the Chairman of Niger Line, Chief Chibuzo Iloegbunam, explained that the delegation visited the commissioner to seek clarification over certain developments observed during the reconstruction. He noted that he had been trading in the line since 1975, and appealed that, should the line be included in the remodelling exercise, the government should consider allowing the traders to undertake the reconstruction themselves.

Similarly, the leader of Johnson Street Line, Mr. Okwudili Ekeh, sought the commissioner's intervention over the diversion of a drainage channel into their line. According to him, the drainage diversion was not part of the originally approved design and could adversely affect traders and businesses operating within the area.

ANAMBRA INTENSIFIES DRIVE TO EXTEND ELECTRICITY TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES – AGUMMADU

By Azuka Offor



The Anambra State Commissioner for Power and Water Resources, Engr. Casmir Chinenye Agummadu, says access to reliable electricity and quality road infrastructure is critical to sustainable community development and economic growth.

Engr. Agummadu made this known when he received a delegation from Okpuno community in Awka South Local Government Area during a courtesy visit to his office in Awka.

He said the state government was intensifying efforts to expand electricity access to underserved communities, including Anambra West, Anambra East, Ayamelum, Awka North, Orumba North and Orumba South Local Government Areas.

According to the commissioner, the availability of electricity and good roads remains a key indicator of a community's transformation into an urban centre, adding that the government is committed to providing critical infrastructure and other essential amenities across the state. He urged residents to support ongoing reforms in the power sector by paying electricity bills and community electricity levies promptly, noting that improved revenue collection would enhance service delivery by electricity distribution companies.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Power and Water Resources, Mr Victor Ezekwo, described electricity as a major driver of community growth and economic development.

Mr. Ezekwo said the state government's pursuit of reliable 24-hour electricity supply was aimed at stimulating economic activities, boosting productivity and increasing the state's internally generated revenue.

The President-General of Okpuno community commended the state government for its efforts to improve power infrastructure and appreciated the commissioner's commitment to engaging with communities.

ANAMBRA GOVT ENDORSES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL TO BOOST TOURISM, CREATIVE ECONOMY



By Obianuju Umeh

The Anambra State Ministry of Culture, Entertainment and Tourism has endorsed the Anambra International Film Festival (ANIFF), describing it as a strategic initiative to promote the state's rich cultural heritage, tourism potential and growing creative economy.

The endorsement came during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the ministry and the organisers of ANIFF, on August 4, 2026, in Awka, marking a significant step towards positioning Anambra as a leading destination for film, arts and cultural tourism.

Speaking at the event, the Commissioner for Culture, Entertainment and Tourism, Barr. Ugochi Amedu, described ANIFF as more than a film festival, saying it would serve as a vibrant platform celebrating Nollywood, African storytelling and global film culture while showcasing music, comedy, fashion, arts and the unique cultural identity of Anambra State.

He noted that the festival, in collaboration with the prestigious Silicon Valley African Film Festival (USA), would attract local and international visitors, stimulate economic activities, create employment opportunities and project Anambra as a preferred destination for investment in the creative and tourism sectors.

According to the commissioner, the partnership aligns with the Soludo administration's vision of leveraging culture, entertainment and tourism as drivers of sustainable economic growth.

Also speaking, the Chairman of the Anambra International Film Festival, Mr. Shedrack Nnanna, expressed appreciation to the ministry for endorsing the initiative, describing the development as a major milestone for the state's creative industry. Nnanna said ANIFF was conceived as an annual international event that would bring together filmmakers, actors, producers, investors and other creative professionals from across the world to celebrate excellence in filmmaking and foster collaboration within the industry.

He disclosed that the festival, which is expected to become one of the leading film festivals in Sub-Saharan Africa, will be permanently domiciled in Anambra State. According to him, beyond screening films, the festival will provide a global platform for showcasing Anambra's cultural heritage, entertainment industry and tourism attractions.

He added that every segment of the entertainment value chain would have a place at the festival, expressing confidence that the initiative would attract investment, promote local talents, create employment opportunities and further establish Anambra as a leading hub for culture, entertainment and tourism in Africa.



ANAMBRA TO ENFORCE TREE FELLING LAW, WARNS OFFENDERS







By Amaka Isikala

The Anambra State Government says it will commence strict enforcement of the state's Tree Felling Law, warning that anyone who fells trees without official approval will be prosecuted.

The Commissioner for Environment, Dr. Clem Aguiyi, issued the warning during a stakeholders' engagement with the leadership of the Anambra State Timber Dealers Association in Awka.

Dr. Aguiyi said the enforcement was in line with the Soludo administration's commitment to environmental sustainability under its fifth pillar of development, Environment and Urban Regeneration. He noted that although the Tree Felling Law had been in existence for years, the government is now committed to ensuring full compliance across the state.

According to him, no individual, company or organisation is permitted to fell any tree without obtaining prior approval from the Ministry of Environment. The commissioner said the meeting was organised to sensitise timber dealers ahead of the enforcement exercise, stressing that ignorance of the law would no longer be accepted as a defence.

He described the state's environmental situation as alarming, noting that Anambra has more than 1,000 active erosion sites, many of which have been worsened by indiscriminate tree felling. Dr. Aguiyi said unchecked deforestation contributes to erosion, biodiversity loss and the impacts of climate change, urging timber dealers to support government efforts by planting trees and reporting illegal tree felling as well as encroachment on forest reserves.

In a response, the leadership of the Anambra State Timber Dealers Association commended the ministry for the engagement and pledged to sensitise its members on the provisions of the law. The association also assured the ministry of its commitment to complying with environmental regulations in the state.

ANAMBRA GOVT INTRODUCES DIGITAL PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR PHYSICAL PLANNING RATES



By Bonaventure Alufo



The Anambra State Government has streamlined the payment of rates and fees under the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development (MPPUD) by integrating the process with the Anambra State Internal Revenue Service (AIRS) ASIN platform on Quickteller. The initiative is aimed at making payments for physical planning services more transparent, convenient and efficient for developers, architects, property owners and other stakeholders, while strengthening revenue collection.

According to the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, payments for building plan approvals, development permits and other statutory MPPUD charges can now be completed online through the AIRS ASIN platform on Quickteller without the need to visit a bank or revenue office. The ministry explained that the digital platform provides applicants with a simple, step-by-step process that guides them through the building approval procedure, from application to final payment.

Officials of the ministry noted that the initiative is part of ongoing efforts to sanitise the building industry, promote compliance with physical planning regulations and improve service delivery across the state. They added that the online payment system will reduce processing delays, eliminate cash transactions, improve accountability and ensure that all revenues are paid directly into government coffers.

The ministry encouraged developers, architects, builders and property owners to take advantage of the digital platform, ensuring they obtain the necessary government approvals before commencing any building project in Anambra State.

The government reaffirmed its commitment to leveraging technology to enhance public service delivery, promote transparency and create a more business friendly environment in line with the Soludo administration's drive for digital governance and sustainable urban development.

ANAMBRA PLEDGES COLLABORATION WITH NAEGE, VOWS TO ENFORCE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN CONSTRUCTION

SAYS NO PROFESSIONAL SHOULD PRACTICE WITHOUT BELONGING TO A PROFESSIONAL BODY



By Rose Oranye

The Anambra State Government has pledged to partner with the Nigerian Association for Engineering Geology and Environment (NAEGE) and to enforce stricter professional standards in construction and mining across the state.

The Commissioner for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Prof. Charles Ofoegbu, and the Commissioner for Information and Value Reformation, Dr Law Mefor, gave the assurance on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, while addressing NAEGE officials led by the National President, Prof. Salome Waziri, during their courtesy visit to the Commissioner for Petroleum and Solid Minerals, Prof. Charles Ofoegbu, at his office in Awka.

Dr Mefor said the Soludo administration would no longer tolerate negligence by professionals and stressed that professionalism must be institutionalised.

"No professional should practise without belonging to their professional bodies. When it comes to enforcement, we need that collaboration between government and bodies like NAEGE to safeguard public infrastructure," he said

The Commissioner added that the government is prioritising durable infrastructure, deploying cement stabilisation and stone base technology to guarantee roads with a minimum lifespan of 20 years, stating that "over 800 km of roads have been awarded and more than 625 km have already been delivered in three years by the Soludo administration."

Also speaking, the Commissioner for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Prof. Ofoegbu, announced that all mining activities in the state have been suspended pending revalidation.

"Baseline geological studies and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) are now compulsory. You may hold a licence, but you cannot use it in Anambra State without proper studies," he said.



Prof. Ofoegbu explained that baseline geological and hydrogeological studies were conducted before every mega project in Anambra, including the new aerotropolis, and pledged to work with NAEGE on its Code of Practice and Guidelines, promising to forward it to the Governor and the Attorney General.

Earlier, Prof. Waziri said the visit was to congratulate Prof. Ofoegbu on his reappointment and to seek stronger collaboration with the state government.

The delegation presented NAEGE's Code of Practice and Guidelines, including an award of recognition to Prof. Ofoegbu for his contributions to the profession and governance.