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WORKERS' VERIFICATION: SOLUTION GOVERNMENT STRENGTHENING ANAMBRA'S WORKFORCE FOR BETTER SERVICE DELIVERY

The ongoing civil service verification exercise by the Anambra State Government is a commendable step towards building a more accountable, efficient and productive public service.

The exercise, which cuts across Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), is aimed at ensuring accurate personnel records, improving workforce planning and strengthening human resource management in the state.

A reliable database remains essential for effective governance. Beyond validating staff records, the verification will support better decisions on staff training, deployment, welfare and overall service improvement.

The initiative aligns with Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo's administration's commitment to professionalism, discipline and efficiency in the civil service. A well-organised and motivated workforce is critical to achieving the objectives of the Solution Agenda and delivering quality services to Ndi Anambra.

The exercise should therefore be seen as an investment in the future of the states public service. With accurate records, transparency and renewed commitment to duty, Anambras civil service will continue to serve as a strong foundation for sustainable development and good governance.



ANAMBRA @35: ENVIRONMENT TAKES CENTER STAGE

By Stella Obi

Anambra State, on Thursday, August 27, 2026, marked its 35th anniversary since its creation on August 27, 1999, with focus on environmental sustainability. The Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC), at its tenth meeting held on August 24, 2026, had resolved to place environmental sustainability at the centre of this year's anniversary celebration, announcing that the celebration will be held under the theme, "Our Environment, Our Future."

The anniversary activities highlighted efforts towards achieving a clean and green Anambra State, while addressing environmental challenges threatening the state. As part of the activities a tree-planting campaign was organised to promote environmental protection and sustainability.

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While leading the symbolic tree-planting exercise at Solution Fun City, Awka, the governor described tree planting as an important step towards protecting the state's ecosystem and building a healthier and more sustainable environment. He identified human activities, including construction on drainage channels, indiscriminate dumping of refuse in waterways, uncontrolled surface runoff and deforestation, as major contributors to environmental challenges such as flooding and gully erosion.

According to him, protecting the environment requires the active participation of individuals, communities, schools and churches. He urged residents to cultivate the habit of planting trees, regularly desilting drainage channels, constructing runoff pits within their compounds and disposing of waste properly.

Soludo also called on residents to speak up and take preventive action against activities capable of worsening flooding and erosion, stressing the need for collective efforts to preserve the state's ecosystem.

The governor announced that environmental education would be incorporated into the curricula of primary and secondary schools to expose young people to the

importance of maintaining a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. He further urged motorists, households, schools, churches and managers of public spaces to provide waste bins and ensure proper waste disposal, insisting that: "Enforcement will be crucial to ensuring compliance and achieving our ideal of a better Anambra.

Earlier in a nationwide broadcast to mark Anambra State's 35th anniversary, held at the Governor's Lodge, Anambra Lighthouse, Awka, the governor unveiled a series of stringent environmental measures aimed at tackling environmental degradation, erosion and other ecological challenges across the state. The measures include greater personal responsibility for environmental protection, community participation in regular desilting and clearing of water channels, as well as the establishment of environmental committees at the town, village and kindred levels.

The governor also directed markets across the state to adopt effective waste management systems, while households are expected to provide waste bins and property owners to introduce measures for controlling surface water runoff within their compounds. He further warned developers against violating the three-metre setback requirement and constructing on waterways, while reckless sand and gravel mining in erosion-prone areas would no longer be tolerated, adding that Anambra currently has more than 1,000 active gully erosion sites, many of which were caused or worsened by human activities, while new ones continue to emerge.

He identified communities including Oko, Nanka, Amaokpala, Agulu, Ogidi, Ozubulu and Nkpor, as well as parts of Onitsha and Nnewi, among areas facing serious erosion threats. According to him, gully erosion has affected more than 30 per cent of the state's landmass, stressing that the situation requires urgent collective action.

Governor Soludo contrasted Anambra's experience with that of Lagos State, which, he noted, is reclaiming land from the ocean, while Anambra continues to lose portions of its land to erosion. He maintained that the erosion crisis in Anambra was largely human-induced rather than entirely natural, urging communities, local governments, churches, schools and other stakeholders to take responsibility for protecting the environment.

The governor also announced that anyone seeking to drill a borehole in the state would be required to obtain the necessary approval under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. He directed that new building plans should incorporate tree planting as part of efforts to promote a greener and more sustainable environment.

Before the ANSEC resolution to centre this year's Anambra State anniversary celebration on the environment, the administration of Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo, CFR, has made environmental sustainability a top priority, particularly in tackling flooding, erosion and other environmental challenges affecting the state.

In July 2026, the state government declared a State of Emergency on the environment in response to the growing environmental damage caused by the indiscriminate dumping of refuse and other materials in drains and waterways, resulting in the blockage of drainage channels.

The environmental strategy of the Soludo administration is anchored on building a cleaner, safer and more resilient Anambra through stronger environmental policies, effective enforcement and sustained infrastructure development.

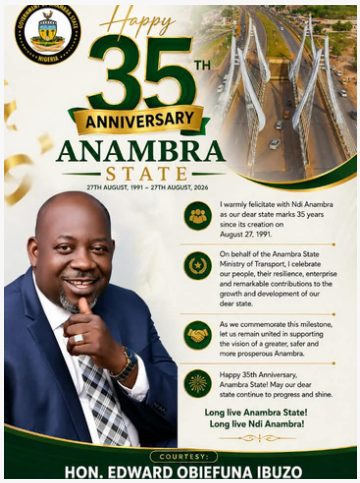
The administration has introduced several initiatives to address the state's environmental challenges. These include community sensitisation programmes such as "Operation Clean Your Waterways," which is aimed at preventing the blockage of natural drainage channels and encouraging residents to take responsibility for their environment.

The government has also continued interventions at erosion sites across the state, alongside the construction of drainage systems, desilting of waterways and rehabilitation of flood-prone communities.

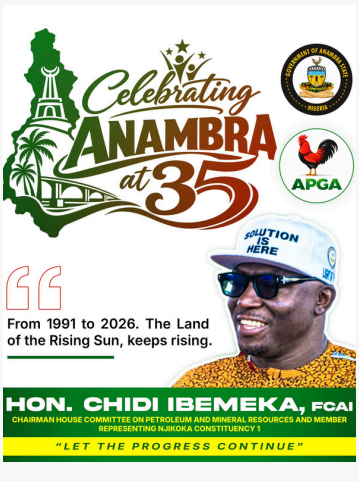
In addition, sanitation enforcement has been strengthened across cities and communities to improve environmental cleanliness and compliance with sanitation regulations.

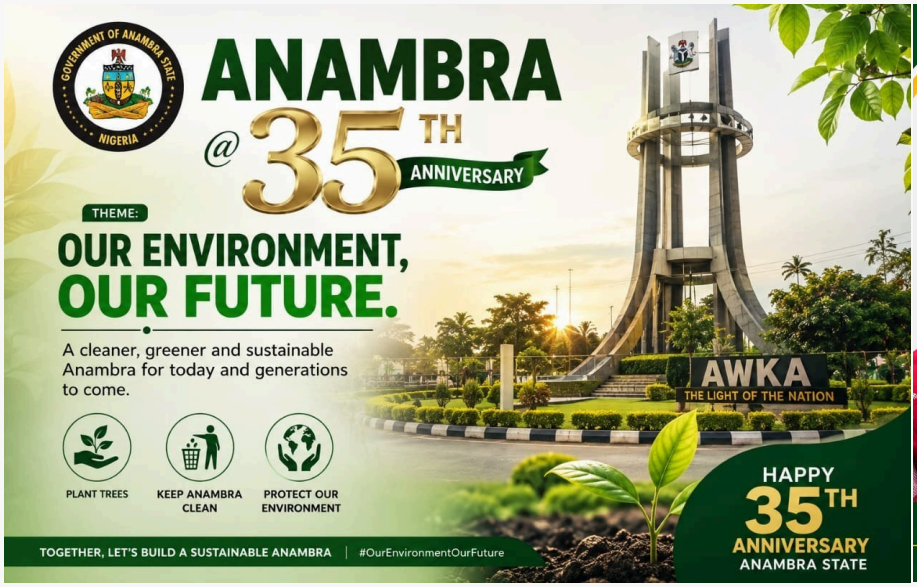
With these interventions in place, environmental protection remains central to the administration's vision of transforming Anambra into a modern, liveable and economically vibrant state. The environmental reforms are not only aimed at addressing immediate challenges but are also designed to ensure long-term ecological stability and sustainable development for present and future generations.





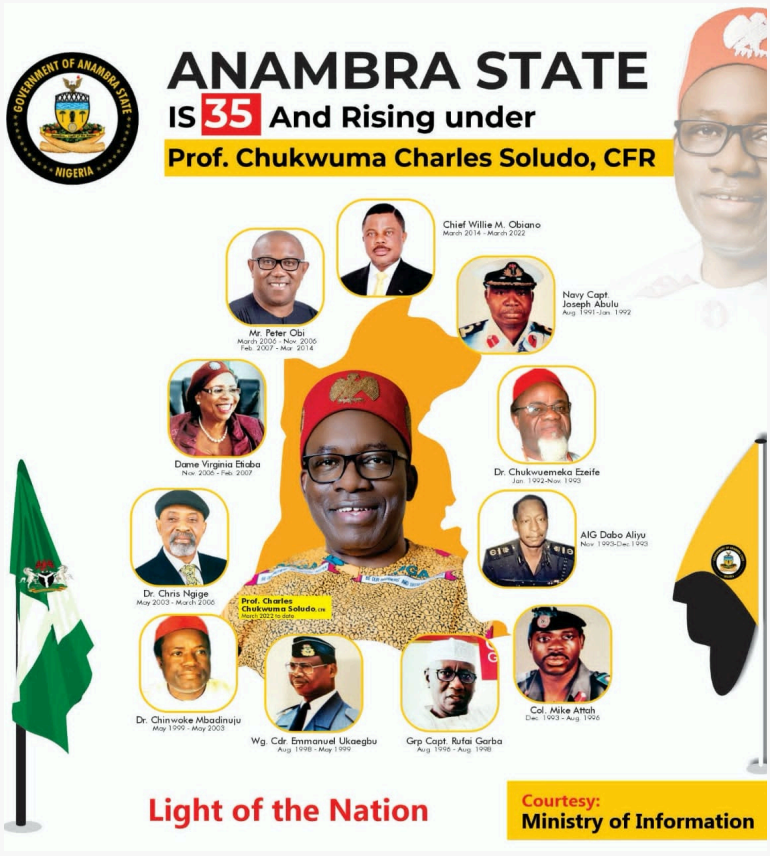


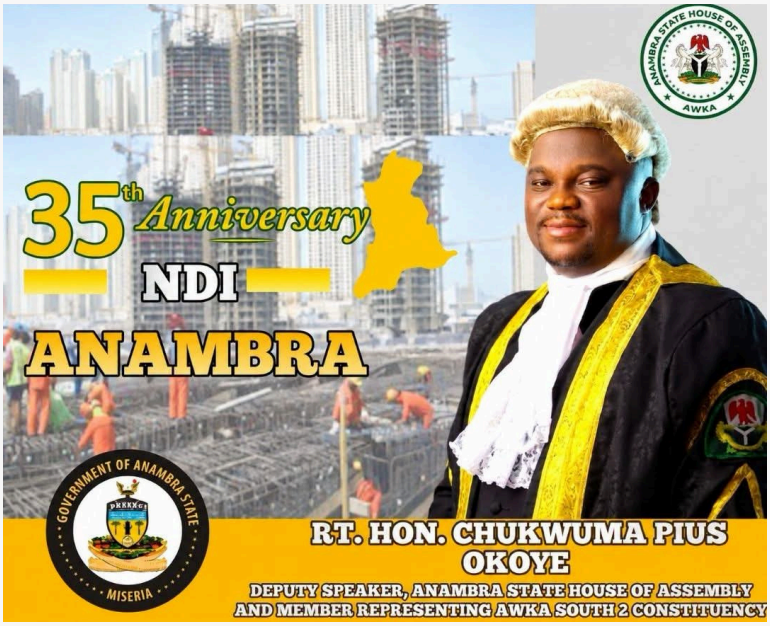



ANAMBRA
@35TH ANNIVERSARY
THEME:
OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR FUTURE.
A cleaner, greener and sustainable Anambra for today and generations to come.
PLANT TREES
KEEP ANAMBRA CLEAN
PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT
AWKA
THE LIGHT OF THE NATION
HAPPY 35TH ANNIVERSARY
ANAMBRA STATE
TOGETHER, LET'S BUILD A SUSTAINABLE ANAMBRA | #OurEnvironmentOurFuture


GOVERNMENT OF ANAMBRA STATE
MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
Happy 35TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF
ANAMBRA STATE
We proudly celebrate 35 years of Anambra State—a journey of resilience, progress, and greater hope.
As we look to the future, we remain committed to building a livable, prosperous, and united Homeland.
Congratulations, Your Excellency!
PROF. CHARLES CHUKWUMA SOLUDO, CFR.
GOVERNOR, ANAMBRA STATE
From
Barr. Vin Ifeanyi Ezeaka
Commissioner for Local Government and Community Affairs


Happy 35th ANNIVERSARY
ANAMBRA STATE
A JOURNEY OF PROGRESS.
A FUTURE OF GREATER POSSIBILITIES.
I heartily congratulate His Excellency, Prof. Chukwuma Charles Soludo, CFR, and the good people of Anambra State as we celebrate 35 years of our dear state.
Over the years, Anambra has continued to move from strength to strength through good governance, visionary leadership and the resilience of Ndi Anambra.
As Head of Civil Service, I am proud of the progress recorded in workers' welfare, including regular salary payments, pension payments, minimum wage implementation and ongoing efforts to address housing and other welfare needs.
I am confident that the transformative vision of the Solution Government under the leadership of Governor Soludo will continue to reposition Anambra for greater development, prosperity and opportunities for all.
Once again, I congratulate Ndi Anambra on this remarkable milestone. May our state continue to prosper and attain the destination envisioned for her.
HAPPY 35TH ANNIVERSARY
Anambra State
ANAMBRA IS ON THE RISE!
NGOZI ANULI IWOUNO, Esq., mni
HEAD OF CIVIL SERVICE
ANAMBRA STATE


ANAMBRA STATE
IS 35 And Rising under
Prof. Chukwuma Charles Soludo, CFR
Chief Willie M. Obiano
March 2014 - March 2022
Mr. Peter Obi
March 2006 - Nov. 2006
Feb. 2007 - Mar. 2014
Navy Capt. Joseph Abulu
Aug. 1991-Jan. 1992
Dame Virginia Etiaba
Nov. 2006 - Feb. 2007
Dr. Chukwuemeka Ezeife
Jan. 1992-Nov. 1992
Dr. Chris Ngige
May 2003 - March 2006
AIG Dabo Aliyu
Nov. 1993-Dec. 1993
Prof. Charles Chukwuma Soludo
March 2022 to date
Dr. Chinwoke Mbadinuju
May 1999 - May 2003
Wg. Cdr. Emmanuel Ukaegbu
Aug. 1998 - May 1999
Grp Capt. Rufai Garba
Aug. 1998 - Aug. 1998
Col. Mike Attah
Dec. 1993 - Aug. 1998
Light of the Nation
Courtesy:
Ministry of Information


35th Anniversary
NDI
ANAMBRA
RT. HON. CHUKWUMA PIUS OKOYE
DEPUTY SPEAKER, ANAMBRA STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
AND MEMBER REPRESENTING AWKA SOUTH 2 CONSTITUENCY


Anambra @35

MEFOR, AGHA MBA AND NWANKWO COMMEND REAR ADMIRAL ANAKWE AS THE NAVY COMMISSIONS A MULTIPURPOSE SPORTS ARENA IN EZIOWELLE

By Rose Oranye

The Nigerian Navy, on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, commissioned a newly constructed multipurpose outdoor sports arena with restrooms and changing rooms in Eziowelle, Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State.

The project, executed under the Chief of Naval Staff Special Intervention Quick Impact Project, was facilitated by Rear Admiral Emmanuel Anakwe, an indigene of Eziowelle, in loving memory of his late father, a former captain of the Red Devils football team and player of the Green Eagles.

The project, executed under the Chief of Naval Staff Special Intervention Quick Impact Project, was facilitated by Rear Admiral Emmanuel Anakwe, an indigene of Eziowelle, in loving memory of his late father, a former captain of the Red Devils football team and player of the Green Eagles.

Speaking to journalists after the commissioning and tour of the project, the Anambra State Commissioner for Information and Value Reformation, Dr Law Mefor, described the intervention as remarkable and worthy of emulation.

Mefor, who said he did not know the Nigerian Navy runs such an impactful community relations project through its senior officers, stated that Eziowelle is fortunate to have a son who attained that height.

Mefor, who said he did not know the Nigerian Navy runs such an impactful community relations project through its senior officers, stated that Eziowelle is fortunate to have a son who attained that height.

"The Navy deserves commendation. I hope other members of the armed forces and the police are doing something similar. We must thank Rear Admiral Anakwe. He had options, but he chose to give back to the community that produced him. That is self-actualisation as found in the psychology of motivation. By this gesture, he has written his name in gold. The plaques show the edifice, indicating that the edifice was constructed in his honour and in honour of his father, a former Nigerian football international. Other generals and police commissioners from Anambra should take this as an example and use their influence to bring projects to their home state," he said.

He further disclosed that while touring the facilities with the Commissioner for Youth Development and Sports, Hon. Patrick Agha Mba, they agreed that the complex provides a prototype that should be replicated across the 179 communities in Anambra, adding that "beyond sports development, it will enhance youth engagement and help to curb restiveness, crime, drug abuse, and cultism by keeping our youths productively occupied."

Earlier, the Commissioner for Youth and Sports Development, Mr Patrick Agha Mba, said the project aligned with Governor Chukwuma Soludo's agenda. He highlighted the facility as a powerful example of public-private-community partnership and urged Ndị Anambra to invest in the state.

Agha Mba stated: "This multipurpose arena, equipped with restrooms and changing rooms, will offer young people in Eziowelle an ideal environment for training, competition, and pursuing their dreams." As a government, we have always said that 99 per cent of the capital is in the hands of individuals, while only one per cent is with the government. This government cannot achieve much without the people-oriented contributions and active involvement of Ndị Anambra."

The Permanent Secretary, Office of the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Nwabufo Nwankwo, who was among those specially recognised by Rear Admiral Anakwe, stated that the project supports Governor Chukwuma Soludo's agenda for public-private-community partnership.

"Rear Admiral Emmanuel Anakwe, an Anambra native in Abuja, has brought a valuable facility to our community; individual and collective contributions will significantly enhance its impact," Nwankwo stated.









ASPHCDA BOSS REASSURES PREGNANT WOMEN OF ACCESSIBLE, QUALITY MATERNAL HEALTHCARE

By Nnedinma Okeke

The Executive Secretary of the Anambra State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (ASPHCDA), Dr Chizoba Prisca Ezeasor, has reaffirmed the state government's commitment to ensuring accessible and quality maternal healthcare for pregnant women across the state. Dr Ezeasor gave the assurance during an inspection tour of Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) in Enugu-Agidi, Njikoka Local Government Area, on Aug. 20.

She explained that under Governor Chukwuma Soludo's free healthcare programme, pregnant women can access antenatal care, delivery services, referrals and indicated surgeries at no cost in public health facilities.

The Executive Secretary urged expectant mothers to attend antenatal appointments regularly and seek prompt medical attention whenever necessary, stressing the importance of timely and professional care during pregnancy and childbirth.



Two beneficiaries of the programme, Mrs Chioma Umeadi and Mrs Blessing Oraebunam, expressed appreciation to the state government for the initiative, saying the provision of free maternal healthcare had significantly reduced the financial burden associated with pregnancy and childbirth.





NYSC CULTURAL CARNIVAL: ANAMBRA COMMISSIONER URGES CORPS MEMBERS TO EMBRACE CULTURAL DIVERSITY, HARD WORK

By Obianuju Umeh

The Anambra State Commissioner for Culture, Entertainment and Tourism, Mr Udoji Amedu, has urged members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to embrace cultural diversity, maintain discipline and uphold a strong work ethic as they serve in their host communities.

Amedu made the call during the Cultural Carnival organised for the 2026 Batch 'B' Stream II corps members serving in Anambra State on August 25.

He described language as an essential component of cultural identity and encouraged the corps members to learn and appreciate the traditions, customs and values of their host communities throughout their service year.

The commissioner also urged the corps members to demonstrate good character, diligence and commitment to their responsibilities, citing Governor Chukwuma Soludo's mantra, "Aka aja aja na-ebute ọnụ mmanụ mmanụ," which emphasises the dignity and rewards of hard work.

The carnival featured traditional attires, dances, music and other cultural performances, creating an avenue for cultural exchange, fostering unity and promoting appreciation of Nigeria's rich and diverse cultural heritage.



AGUIYI, ASMATA STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT IN ANAMBRA MARKETS

By Amaka Isikala

The Anambra State Commissioner for Environment, Dr. Clem Aguiyi, has called for stronger collaboration between the Anambra State Markets Amalgamated Traders Association (ASMATA) and other stakeholders to improve environmental enforcement and sanitation across markets in the state. Aguiyi made the call on Aug. 23, 2026, during a stakeholders' meeting held at the ASMATA Secretariat in Odakpu, Onitsha.

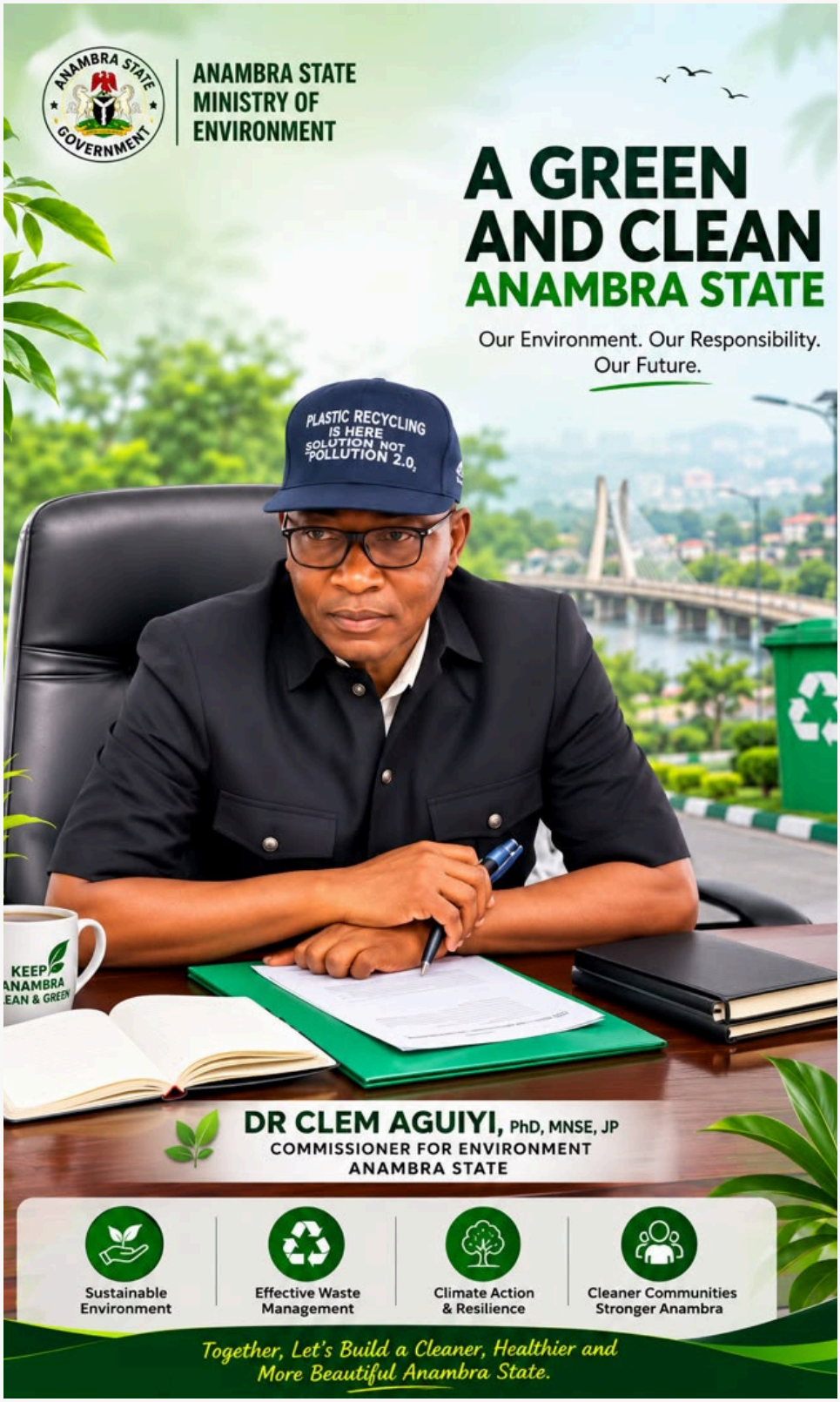
The meeting was attended by the ASMATA President-General and other members of the association's leadership, ASMATA youths, members of the Makeway Team, prospective Environmental Enforcement Taskforce members and other stakeholders. Discussions at the meeting focused on the proposed environmental enforcement taskforce, including its structure and responsibilities, as well as ways to strengthen cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and market leadership.

The commissioner stressed that effective environmental protection required collective responsibility, urging traders, market leaders, youths and communities to take greater ownership of environmental cleanliness and sustainability. He identified proper waste disposal, functional drainage systems, regular sanitation, noise pollution control and consistent environmental monitoring as key areas requiring sustained attention across the markets.

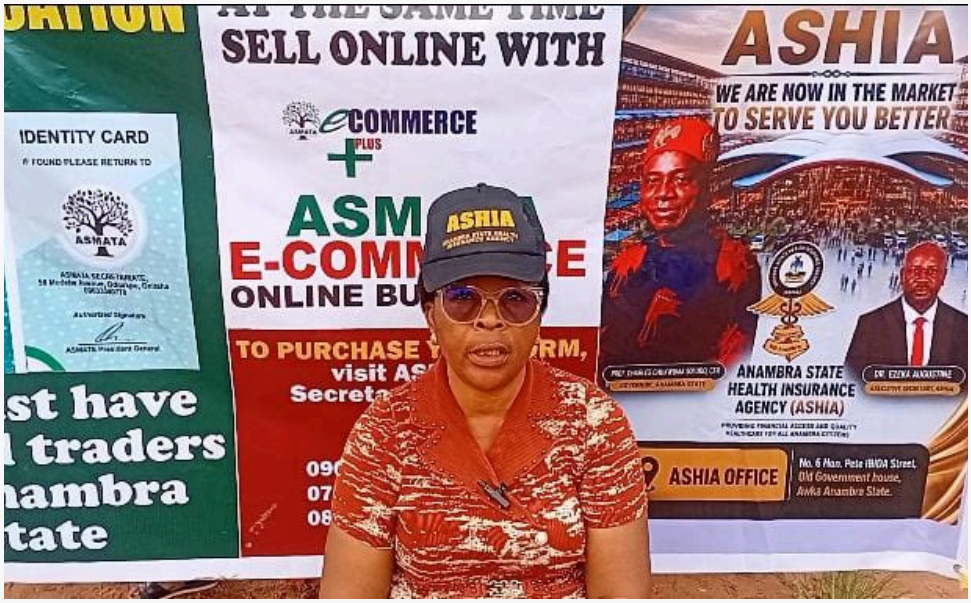
Dr. Aguiyi also directed that environmental enforcement must be carried out professionally, transparently and with discipline, while adhering strictly to due process. He emphasised the need for clear reporting and communication channels to ensure effective implementation. The commissioner further urged ASMATA youths to become more actively involved in environmental sensitisation, sanitation campaigns and the reporting of environmental violations within their respective markets.

He called on all stakeholders to support the ministry's efforts to promote a cleaner and healthier Anambra

Responding, the stakeholders pledged to strengthen their cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the environmental agenda of the Soludo administration.



ASHIA URGES ANAMBRA TRADERS TO ENROL IN HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME, ANNOUNCES NEW SUBSCRIPTION FEE



By Chika Obi

The Anambra State Health Insurance Agency (ASHIA) has confirmed that some traders in the state are already enrolled in and benefiting from its health insurance scheme.

ASHIA Head of Department, Mrs. Chinelo Chukwuneke, disclosed this during a gathering of traders and All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) candidates, organised by the Anambra State Markets Amalgamated Traders Association (ASMATA).

Mrs. Chukwuneke encouraged more traders to enroll in the scheme, explaining that subscribers could access healthcare through the ASHIA card and enjoy discounts on eligible medical bills. She also announced that the annual subscription would increase from N12,000 to N19,500 from September.

Also speaking, Permanent Secretary, Anambra State Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Engr. Michael Obiekwe, addressed issues concerning traders and the government's efforts in the commerce sector.

Obiekwe emphasised the importance of cooperation between government and traders in advancing the interests of the state's commercial sector.

Chairman, Sokoto Line Traders Association, Onitsha Main Market, Hon. Emeka Mbachu, appealed to Governor Chukwuma Soludo to follow through on his position concerning landlords and tenants, saying that many people, including traders, would benefit if the intervention was implemented.



Hon. Mbachu described Soludo as a governor who does what he says he will do, expressing confidence that he would also address the landlord-tenant concerns.

The remarks at the gathering touched on issues of importance to traders, including access to healthcare and matters affecting their businesses and livelihoods.

ANSACA, NOA STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP TO DEEPEN HIV AWARENESS ACROSS ANAMBRA

By Obianuju Isima

The Anambra State AIDS Control Agency (ANSACA) is strengthening its collaboration with the National Orientation Agency (NOA), Anambra State Directorate, to expand HIV awareness, prevention education and community mobilisation across the state.

The partnership was explored on Aug. 24, 2026, during a courtesy visit by the NOA, Anambra State leadership, led by the State Director, Chijioke Esq., to the Executive Director of ANSACA, Dr. Nkem Okeke, at the agency's office.

Welcoming the delegation, Dr. Okeke emphasised the importance of effective public enlightenment in reducing new HIV infections, encouraging regular testing and treatment, addressing stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV. He noted that NOA's extensive grassroots network could provide a valuable channel for delivering accurate and practical HIV information to communities, markets, schools, workplaces, religious institutions and other groups across the state.

The discussions centred on possible joint sensitisation campaigns, community mobilisation, promotion of HIV testing and prevention services, stigma reduction, treatment adherence and the development of clear, culturally appropriate messages that resonate with people at the grassroots. Dr. Okeke said the proposed collaboration was consistent with the Soludo administration's focus on partnerships, preventive healthcare and community driven development, as well as ANSACA's 2026–2028 State Strategic Transformation and Sustainability Plan.

The NOA State Director expressed the agency's readiness to partner with ANSACA in strengthening sustained public education and behavioural change communication on HIV and other public health priorities.

Both agencies reaffirmed their commitment to combining their respective strengths and grassroots structures to build a better-informed, healthier and more supportive Anambra State, where people can access accurate HIV information and services without fear of stigma or discrimination.





IDEMILI NORTH ADOPTS 16-POINT PLAN TO TACKLE FLOODING, EROSION, WASTE, BLOCKED DRAINAGES



By Uzo Ugwunze

The Idemili North Local Government Area Administration has adopted a 16-point resolution aimed at addressing flooding, erosion, indiscriminate waste disposal and blocked drainage channels across the area.

The resolutions were adopted on Aug. 19,2026, during an Environmental Summit held at the Council Hall, Ogidi, where government officials, community leaders and other stakeholders deliberated on growing environmental challenges affecting the local government area.

The communiqué, which seeks to protect lives, property, public infrastructure and the environment, was endorsed by the convener and Mayor of Idemili North LGA, Hon. Stanley Nkwoka; Commissioner for Information, Dr. Law Mefor; Commissioner for Environment, Chief Clem Aguiyi; and other stakeholders.

Among the resolutions was a proposal for a modest upward review of the Anambra State Waste Management Agency (ASWAMA) environmental PayDirect levy to strengthen waste collection and disposal.

The summit also recommended the provision and use of waste bins, bags and buckets in homes, markets, businesses and among transport operators, while warning against indiscriminate dumping of refuse. On flood control, the stakeholders resolved that drainage channels across the LGA should undergo regular desilting and rehabilitation, with priority given to flood-prone areas. Property owners and developers were also urged to provide appropriate catchment pits and stormwater management systems.

The summit further resolved to revive monthly environmental sanitation exercises involving communities, markets, schools and government agencies, alongside stronger enforcement of environmental laws and penalties for offenders. To protect waterways, the stakeholders called for the clearing and preservation of natural waterways, wetlands and drainage corridors, particularly from encroachment and other forms of obstruction.

The LGA administration was also tasked with developing a coordinated flood and erosion control action plan targeting identified hotspots and establishing an Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Committee to monitor compliance. The summit emphasised the importance of public participation, calling for sustained environmental awareness campaigns and greater involvement of traditional rulers, town unions, youth and women groups, religious organisations and market associations.

It further placed responsibility on property owners and developers to ensure that their projects do not obstruct natural water flow, while encouraging stronger collaboration

between the LGA, ASWAMA, relevant state agencies and communities. The summit directed the immediate clearing of blocked drainages and waterways, mapping of flood-prone areas, removal of illegal dumpsites, intensified public sensitisation and the reintroduction of monthly environmental sanitation.

The stakeholders declared that environmental protection was a shared responsibility and urged residents and organisations across Idemili North to support the implementation of the resolutions. The LGA administration is expected to periodically review progress on the resolutions in accordance with applicable environmental laws in Anambra State, with a view to making Idemili North safer, cleaner and more sustainable.

SOLUDO SOLUTION PRE-SEASON TOURNAMENT KICKS OFF IN AWKA, EIGHT TEAMS BATTLE FOR HONOURS





By Chidinma Ajemba

The Soludo Solution Pre-Season Tournament has officially commenced at the Awka City Stadium, with eight football clubs competing for honours while providing a platform for young football talents across Anambra State to showcase their skills.

The tournament is organised by the Anambra State Ministry of Youth Development and Sports in partnership with the Anambra State Football Association (ANSFA) as part of efforts to promote grassroots football development and create opportunities for emerging players.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Commissioner for Youth Development and Sports, Mr Patrick Agha Mba, said the competition reflects Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo's commitment to developing a sustainable sports ecosystem in the state. Agha Mba noted that the administration's sports vision goes beyond organising competitions, stressing the importance of nurturing "sportspreneurs" who can transform their talents into sustainable careers and compete at national and international levels.

The commissioner also highlighted the state government's investments in sports infrastructure, including the newly constructed stadium facility in Ekwulobia City, which he said is awaiting official commissioning. He commended the Chairman of ANSFA, retired General Chikelue Iloenyosi, and the association's leadership for their efforts in improving football administration, developing young talents and ensuring the successful organisation of the tournament.

Addressing the participating players, Agha Mba urged them to take full advantage of the opportunity by demonstrating discipline, determination and professionalism. He also called on coaches and match officials to uphold fairness and integrity throughout the competition. According to him, the tournament is expected to promote youth development, healthy competition, unity and sportsmanship while providing grassroots footballers with valuable opportunities to improve their skills and pursue professional careers.

The competition features eight teams divided into two groups, with the eventual group winners set to meet in the grand finale as Anambra continues to strengthen its commitment to grassroots sports development.

SOLUDO'S POVERTY DRIVE TARGETS RURAL HOUSEHOLDS THROUGH FREE SERVICES, SKILLS, AGRICULTURE



By Chizoba Njaka

The Anambra State CommisGovernor Chukwuma Soludo's administration has intensified efforts to reduce poverty in Anambra State through a combination of free social services, agricultural empowerment, youth skills development, road infrastructure and improved security. The administration's approach goes beyond short-term welfare interventions, focusing on reducing the cost of essential services while creating opportunities for residents, particularly those in rural communities, to build sustainable sources of income.
sioner for Culture, Entertainment and Tourism,

Agriculture remains a major component of the strategy, with the government distributing high-yield economic tree seedlings to households across the state. Official figures indicate that more than 2.6 million oil palm and coconut seedlings have been distributed to about 180,000 households, with longer-term targets of between five and 10 million seedlings for 500,000 households. The Farm-to-Feed campaign, launched in 2024, is also aimed at encouraging subsistence and commercial farming, increasing local food production and reducing dependence on food supplies from outside the state. Smallholder farmers have received improved seedlings, subsidised fertilisers and other forms of support intended to increase productivity and strengthen household incomes.

The administration's free education policy is another major element of its poverty reduction programme. Public nursery, primary and secondary education has been made tuition-free, while schools have been directed not to impose PTA, examination, sports and infrastructure levies. The extension of the policy to senior secondary classes is expected to further reduce the financial burden on parents, especially low-income families. For households with irregular incomes, savings on school expenses can be redirected towards food, housing and other basic needs.

Healthcare is also being used as a tool to reduce household expenses. The government's free maternal healthcare programme provides antenatal care, delivery services and caesarean sections in public health facilities. Officials say tens of thousands of women have benefited from the initiative.

Road construction and rehabilitation form another part of the administration's economic strategy. Projects including the Amawbia–Enugwu Agidi–Nawgu–Ukwullu road, Nnewi–Oba road, Ichida–Amichi road and the Anaku–Omor–Ifite Ogwari–Umueje–Omasi Agu corridor are designed to improve connectivity between rural communities, farms, markets and commercial centres.

Improved roads are expected to make the transportation of agricultural produce easier while reducing travel difficulties and improving access to schools, healthcare facilities and markets.

The administration has also pointed to the restoration of regular Monday economic activities following the decline of the enforced sit-at-home order. The return of markets, banks, schools and other businesses to normal Monday operations has provided traders, workers and small businesses with the opportunity to recover economic activities previously lost each week.

Youth empowerment is another pillar of the poverty reduction agenda. Through the One Youth, Two Skills initiative, young people receive vocational and digital skills training,

apprenticeships, entrepreneurship development and support through cooperatives, equipment and working capital. The programme is intended to equip young people with skills that can lead to self-employment, business creation and greater economic independence.

Security improvements have also been linked to the state's economic development efforts, as safer communities and commercial centres are expected to encourage investment, trading and other economic activities.

SOLUDO INTENSIFIES FIGHT AGAINST EROSION, FLOODING ACROSS ANAMBRA

By Chizoba Njaka



Governor Chukwuma Soludo's administration has intensified efforts to tackle gully erosion, flooding and environmental degradation across Anambra State, committing billions of naira to reclamation projects, flood control and preventive infrastructure.

Erosion, which occurs when water, wind or ice wears away and carries soil and rock from one location to another, can cause significant environmental and economic damage when accelerated. Its effects include the loss of fertile topsoil, reduced agricultural productivity, water pollution, flooding, destruction of roads and buildings, and the loss of natural habitats.

In Anambra, Governor Soludo has described gully erosion and flooding as the state's number one existential threat, prompting the administration to adopt a combination of emergency interventions, long-term infrastructure and stricter environmental regulations. The administration has approved and disbursed billions of naira across several budget cycles for erosion reclamation and flood-control projects in communities including Umunze, Umuchu, Oba and Awka.

In June 2025, the state executive council approved contracts worth over N9.6 billion for erosion control and road rehabilitation, including a N3.5 billion Umunze–Umuchu erosion reclamation, flood control and road project. Additional approvals brought the total to about N10.4 billion for erosion, flood management and critical roads across the state. It has also adopted resilient construction techniques, including stone-base and cement stabilisation, on roads to reduce surface runoff and prevent water from creating new gullies. Many of the new roads are being built with 6-inch stone-base and cement stabilisation, a costlier method designed to last 20 years and reduce runoff that feeds gullies.

Beyond state-funded interventions, the government has partnered with the Federal Ministry of Environment and other agencies to address severe erosion flashpoints. During President Tinubu's 2025 state visit, he pledged federal support to tackle Anambra's erosion crisis, acknowledging that the scale of the problem exceeds the state's fiscal capacity. Additional control works have been secured and executed at locations such as Etitinabo in Anaocha Local Government Area.

The administration declared a state of emergency on environmental degradation, with measures targeting illegal sand mining and the obstruction of natural waterways. In 2026, the governor ordered statewide desilting of drainages and a sanitation crackdown from July, warning that sand mining and waste dumping are accelerating erosion and flooding. As part of efforts to prevent erosion rather than merely respond to it, the state introduced an environmental code requiring new buildings to provide water-catchment pits to help manage heavy surface runoff.

The government further made some state-funded erosion interventions conditional on community compliance with preventive measures, including clearing local drainage channels and establishing community environmental watchdog committees. Anambra is estimated to have more than 1,000 active erosion sites, with some reports saying about 70 percent of the state's landmass is at risk. While the Soludo

administration has inspected, awarded contracts for, or commenced intervention measures at numerous locations, there is no publicly available exhaustive numerical list covering every active site.

Among locations that have received or been selected for interventions are Uga, Ufuma and Akabor in Nnewi, where dedicated state-led remedial works have been targeted. Reports reference erosion control and road projects in the Nnewi–Ekwulobia–Uga corridor, consistent with the administration's focus on the area. At Owelle Aja in Obosi, erosion control works have reportedly reached between 70 and 80 per cent completion, according to the governor.

An erosion control and reclamation project at Umuenechi in Agulu Awka was executed through ANSEWCCA and subsequently handed over to the community and Paul University. Interventions have also been approved and executed around Ekwueme Square in Awka, while contracts have been awarded to address gullies threatening the Government House and State House of Assembly. The executive council approved three contracts specifically to tackle gullies threatening these core government sites, with named contractors and timelines.

Following severe road damage along the Oba axis of the Onitsha-Owerri Expressway, emergency and remedial **measures were also deployed to address the erosion-related threat. In Oba, residents have warned that over 20 buildings are at imminent risk from an expanding gully linked to poor drainage along the highway, underscoring the urgency of state interventions. Other locations covered by major erosion-control approvals and interventions include Ojoto, Abidi, Umuoji, Nnewi, Nkpor, Enugwu-Ukwu and Ire Obosi. These communities appear in official "legacy projects" lists and media reports as sites of erosion control, road and flood-control interventions.**

FRSC, ANAMBRA GOVT STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP ON GRASSROOTS ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS



By Chisom Okpala

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and the Anambra State Government have renewed their commitment to strengthening grassroots road safety awareness and reducing road traffic crashes across the state.

The commitment was made when the Sector Commander of the FRSC in Anambra, Corps Commander Bridget Asakhauno, paid a courtesy visit to the Commissioner for Local Government and Community Affairs, Barr. Vin Ifeanyi Ezeaka, in his office on Aug. 26, 2026.

The meeting provided an opportunity for both institutions to explore areas of collaboration, particularly in promoting community based road safety initiatives through local government authorities and grassroots communities.

Discussions focused on intensifying public enlightenment on safe driving practices, compliance with traffic regulations, responsible road use and pedestrian safety.

They also emphasised the need to raise awareness about the dangers of reckless driving, excessive speeding and other traffic violations that often lead to avoidable crashes.

Speaking during the meeting, Ezeaka stressed the need to take road safety campaigns beyond urban centres to communities at the grassroots.

He described local communities as critical stakeholders in promoting compliance with road safety regulations and advocated sustained sensitisation programmes in rural communities, schools, markets, motor parks and other public places.

According to him, such programmes will help educate motorists, commercial drivers, pedestrians and other road users on responsible road use and the need to prioritise safety.

Earlier, Asakhauno reaffirmed the Corps' commitment to strengthening partnerships with relevant stakeholders to advance road safety education across the state.

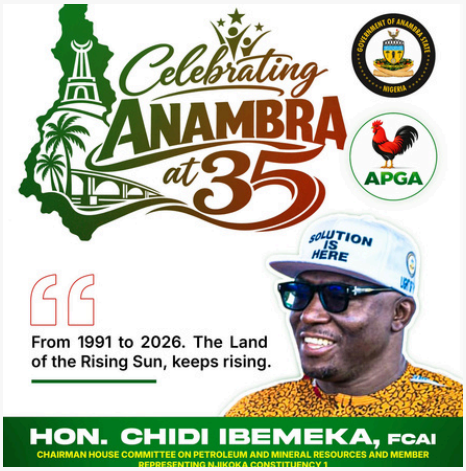
She said collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs would enable the Corps to reach more grassroots communities through coordinated advocacy and public enlightenment programmes.

Asakhauno said the initiatives were aimed at promoting safer road use and reducing road traffic crashes.

The two officials expressed optimism that sustained institutional collaboration, increased public awareness and active community participation would enhance road safety consciousness, reduce traffic related fatalities and contribute to safer communities across Anambra.



ANAMBRA @ 35: IBEMEKA CELEBRATES STATE'S RESILIENCE, ENTERPRISE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE



By Emeka Ilozor

The Member representing Njikoka Constituency 1 in the Anambra State House of Assembly, Hon. Chidi Ibemeka, has congratulated the people of Anambra State on the 35th anniversary of the creation of the state, describing the milestone as a celebration of resilience, enterprise, cultural heritage and the indomitable spirit of Ndi Anambra.

Hon. Ibemeka, who is the Chairman of the House Committee on Petroleum and Mineral Resources, said Anambra's 35-year journey had demonstrated what a determined and enterprising people could achieve through hard work, unity and visionary leadership.

In a goodwill message titled, "Anambra @ 35: Rooted in Heritage, Rising in Enterprise," the lawmaker said the state had continued to live up to its reputation as the "Light of the Nation," largely through the contributions of its people at home and in the diaspora.

He noted that Anambra's achievements were evident across various sectors, citing the commercial activities of Onitsha, Awka's growing innovation ecosystem, Nnewi's industrial strength and the state's rich cultural heritage, which he said had continued to distinguish Anambra nationally and internationally.

According to him, the progress recorded over the past 35 years was made possible by the contributions of successive leaders, founding fathers, entrepreneurs, professionals, workers, youths, women and other citizens who had invested their time, resources and talents in the development of the state.

The lawmaker paid tribute to the founding fathers and past leaders of the state, as well as every Anambra son and daughter whose contributions had helped shape the state's development trajectory. He observed that Anambra had, over the years, built institutions and enterprises that had contributed significantly to Nigeria's development, while its people had distinguished themselves in education, business, industry, technology, culture and other fields of human endeavour.

Hon. Ibemeka, however, stressed that the anniversary should go beyond celebration, describing it as an opportunity for renewed commitment to the future of the state. He identified security, youth empowerment, infrastructure development and the creation of sustainable economic opportunities as critical areas that should remain priorities in Anambra's continued development.

The lawmaker said the collective aspiration should be to build an Anambra that would remain a preferred destination to live, work and invest, while ensuring that the benefits of development reached communities and citizens across the state.

Hon. Ibemeka also called on Ndi Anambra to continue embracing the spirit of "akụ ruo ụlọ" wealth that builds the home stressing the importance of using individual and collective achievements to strengthen families, communities and the state. He expressed optimism that with unity, vision, hard work and sustained commitment to good governance and development, the next 35 years of Anambra State would be even more prosperous.

ANAMBRA @35: APGA CHIEFTAIN, MARKET LEADERS CELEBRATE SOLUDO, SEEK PEACE AND GREATER PROSPERITY

By Gloria Onyeanusi

As Anambra State marks 35 years of its creation, an APGA chieftain, Hon. Afam Uzoegwu, and prominent market leaders have congratulated Governor Chukwuma Soludo and the people of the state, while calling for sustained peace, unity and inclusive development.

In separate anniversary messages, the stakeholders described the milestone as an opportunity to reflect on Anambra's journey, celebrate its progress and renew commitment to building a more prosperous future for Ndi Anambra.

Uzoegwu said the 35th anniversary was a significant moment for the people of the state to appreciate the achievements recorded over the years and look ahead with renewed optimism.

He congratulated Governor Soludo and Ndi Anambra, praying for greater progress, improved living conditions and continued development across the state, calling for the preservation of peace, describing it as essential to attracting investment and sustaining meaningful development.

The APGA stalwart commended the Soludo administration for its efforts in infrastructure, economic

development and other sectors, urging Ndi Anambra to support initiatives that promote the collective interests of the state.

Also felicitating with the state, Chairman of Ogbaru Relief Market, Chief Ndubuisi Ochuogu, and Chairman of Oseokwudo Market, Onitsha, High Chief Ikechukwu Umeano, congratulated Governor Soludo and the people of Anambra on the anniversary.

The market leaders noted that improvements in infrastructure and other areas of development were important to creating a more conducive environment for businesses and residents, urging the people to continue supporting programmes that strengthen peace, economic growth and social development.

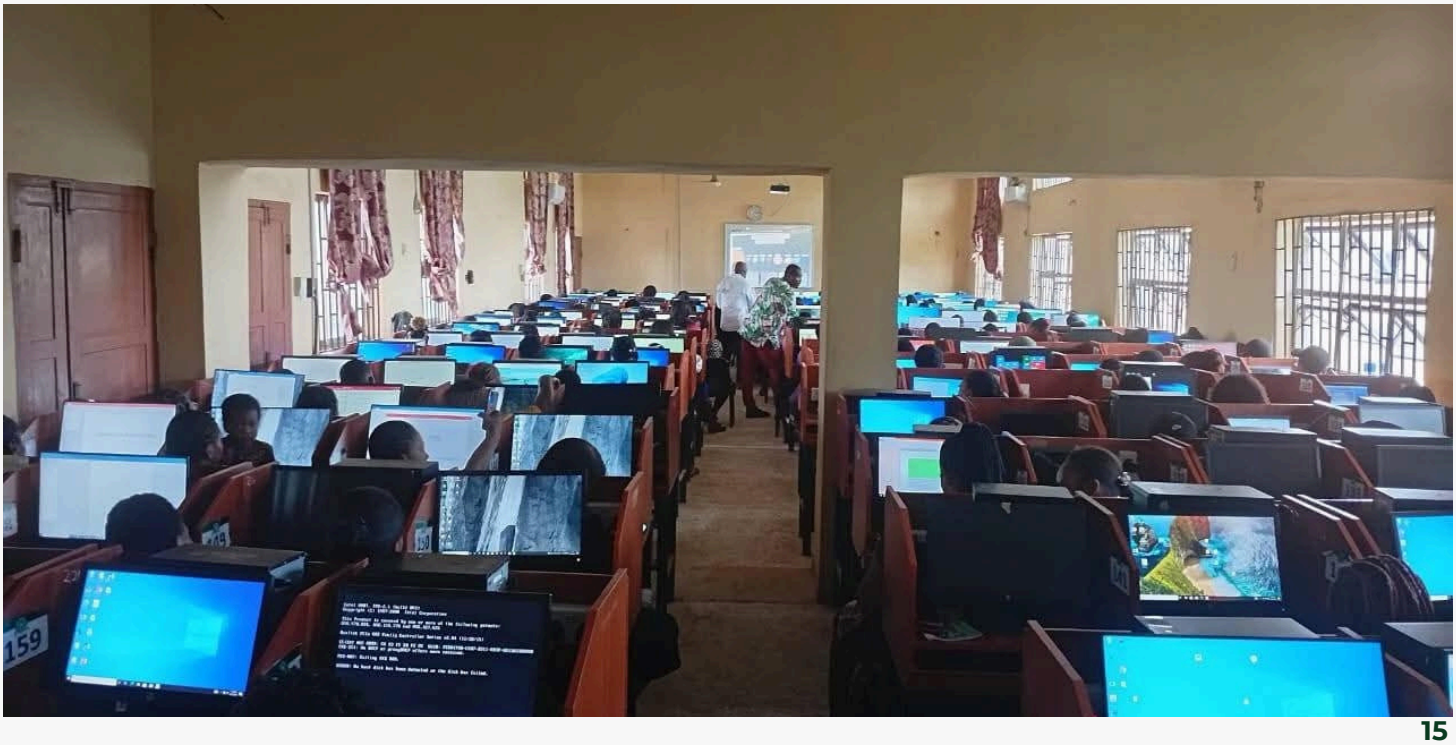
Similarly, Chairman of Grain Seed Dealers Market, Onitsha, Chief Chijioke Okpala, congratulated Ndi Anambra on the 35th anniversary and prayed for continued peace, prosperity and progress.



Okpala expressed optimism that with greater unity, cooperation and commitment from the people, Anambra would continue to build on its achievements and further strengthen its position as one of Nigeria's leading states.

The stakeholders called on Ndi Anambra at home and in the diaspora to use the anniversary as a renewed opportunity to celebrate the state's achievements, promote unity and contribute to its collective growth.

OTUOCHA TEACHERS GET SET FOR MODERN CLASSROOMS







By Mokwugwo Ogochukwu

Teachers in the Otuocha Education Zone have commenced a digital skills training programme aimed at strengthening their capacity to integrate technology into teaching and learning.

The Solution Teachers Digital Skills Training, which commenced on Aug. 24,2026, is ongoing at the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Centre of Nwafor Orizu College of Education, Nsugbe (NOCEN).

The programme is designed to equip participating teachers with practical digital competencies for classroom engagement, lesson delivery and the adoption of innovative teaching methods.

It also exposes the teachers to relevant digital tools and technologies to enhance instructional delivery, improve students' learning experiences and promote innovation in education.

The training is part of efforts to develop a digitally competent teaching workforce capable of responding to the changing demands of education in the digital age.

Through practical sessions and hands on activities, the teachers are gaining confidence in integrating technology into their teaching activities.

The initiative is expected to contribute to a technology driven education system by equipping teachers with relevant skills for effective teaching in an increasingly digital environment.

The ongoing training is also expected to strengthen the use of digital tools in classrooms across the Otuocha Education Zone.

ANAMBRA @ 35: SOLUDO LEADS TREE-PLANTING CAMPAIGN, URGES COLLECTIVE ACTION AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

By Ifeyinwa Ogwo

Anambra State Governor, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, has called on Ndi Anambra to embrace tree planting as a collective responsibility to promote a greener environment, mitigate climate and ecological challenges, and improve the quality of air across the state.

Soludo made the call while leading a symbolic tree-planting exercise at Solution Fun City, Awka, on Aug. 27, as part of activities marking Anambra State's 35th anniversary.

The governor described tree planting as an important step towards protecting the state's ecosystem and

building a healthier and more sustainable environment. He identified human activities, including construction on drainage channels, indiscriminate dumping of refuse in waterways, uncontrolled surface runoff and deforestation, as major contributors to environmental challenges such as flooding and gully erosion.

According to him, protecting the environment requires the active participation of individuals, communities, schools and churches. He urged residents to cultivate the habit of planting trees, regularly desilting drainage channels, constructing runoff pits within their compounds and disposing of waste properly.

Soludo also called on residents to speak up and take preventive action against activities capable of worsening flooding and erosion, stressing the need for collective efforts to preserve the state's ecosystem.

The governor announced that environmental education would be incorporated into the curricula of primary and secondary schools to expose young people to the importance of maintaining a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

He further urged motorists, households, schools, churches and managers of public spaces to provide waste bins and ensure proper waste disposal. "Enforcement will be crucial to ensuring compliance and achieving our ideal of a better Anambra," he said.

Former Governor of the state, Dr Chris Ngige, described the anniversary tree-planting campaign as significant, noting that trees play an important role in providing clean and pollution-free air, which contributes to healthier living.

Ngige cautioned residents against indiscriminate felling of trees in their compounds, noting that some countries have laws protecting trees and requiring official approval before they can be removed. He also pledged to plant a tree in honour of each of the former governors of Anambra State.

The State Chairman of the Traditional Rulers' Council, His Royal Majesty, Igwe Chidubem Iweka, commended the governor for championing the initiative and urged Ndi Anambra and Nigerians to embrace tree planting. He noted that trees contribute significantly to ecological balance and can help reduce the impact of flooding.

Earlier, the Commissioner for Environment, Dr Clem Aguiyi, welcomed participants and commended the governor's commitment to addressing the state's environmental challenges. Dr. Aguiyi described environmental protection as a collective responsibility, declaring: "This is a shared battle we will win together."

The event featured symbolic tree planting by Governor Soludo, his wife, Dr Nonye Soludo, Deputy Governor, Dr Onyekachi Ibezim, Speaker of the Anambra State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Somtochukwu Udenze, and other dignitaries.









SOLUDO UNVEILS TOUGH ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES AS ANAMBRA MARKS 35TH ANNIVERSARY

By Ifeyinwa Ogwo

Anambra State Governor, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, has on Aug. 27, 2026, unveiled a series of stringent environmental measures aimed at tackling environmental degradation, erosion and other ecological challenges across the state. The measures include greater personal responsibility for environmental protection, community participation in regular desilting and clearing of water channels, as well as the establishment of environmental committees at the town, village and kindred levels.

The governor also directed markets across the state to adopt effective waste management systems, while households are expected to provide waste bins and property owners to introduce measures for controlling surface water runoff within their compounds. He further warned developers against violating the three-metre setback requirement and constructing on waterways, while reckless sand and gravel mining in erosion-prone areas would no longer be tolerated.

Governor Soludo announced the measures during a nationwide broadcast to mark Anambra State's 35th anniversary, held at the Governor's Lodge, Anambra Lighthouse, Awka, with the theme, “Our Environment, Our Future... A Call for Personal Responsibility and Collective Action.” The governor said Anambra currently has more than 1,000 active gully erosion sites, many of which were caused or worsened by human activities, while new ones continue to emerge.

He identified communities including Oko, Nanka, Amaokpala, Agulu, Ogidi, Ozubulu and Nkpor, as well as parts of Onitsha and Nnewi, among areas facing serious erosion threats. According to him, gully erosion has affected more than 30 per cent of the state's landmass, stressing that the situation requires urgent collective action.

Governor Soludo contrasted Anambra's experience with that of Lagos State, which, he noted, is reclaiming land from the ocean, while Anambra continues to lose portions of its land to erosion. He maintained that the erosion crisis in Anambra was largely human-induced rather than entirely natural, urging communities, local governments, churches, schools and other stakeholders to take responsibility for protecting the environment.

The governor also announced that anyone seeking to drill a borehole in the state would be required to obtain the necessary approval under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. He directed that new building plans should incorporate tree planting as part of efforts to promote a greener and more sustainable environment.

Governor Soludo stressed the importance of protecting trees, noting that in many developed countries, permission is required before a tree can be cut down because of its environmental and ecological benefits. He added that the state government would establish a compliance and reporting network to monitor environmental hazards and ensure adherence to the new measures.

The governor called on Ndi Anambra to embrace collective responsibility for environmental protection, warning that safeguarding the state's environment was essential to securing a sustainable future for present and future generations.



