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WEEKLY



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SUPPORTING ANAMBRA'S STAND AGAINST GENDER DISCRIMINATION

The move by the Anambra State Government to investigate and prosecute persons who deny women and girls their inheritance rights on the basis of their sex is a significant step towards strengthening justice, equality and respect for the rule of law.

The Anambra State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Tobechukwu Nweke, SAN, in a letter to the Nigeria Police Force , made available to newsmen on September 26, 2026, requested investigation of reported cases of gender-based disinheritance and forwarding of the case files to the Ministry of Justice for appropriate action. The directive is based on Section 22 of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, 2017 of Anambra State, under which offenders may face imprisonment of up to four years.

This development sends a clear message that no cultural practice should be used as a shield for discrimination that violates the law.

For generations, some women and girls have been denied access to family property simply because they were born female. Culture is important to society, but culture must operate within the framework of the law. Where a customary practice conflicts with constitutional rights and established judicial decisions, the law must prevail.

Anambra's decision should consequently go beyond prosecution. It should be accompanied by sustained public education, especially at the community and grassroots levels, so that families understand that daughters are not lesser members of their families and that inheritance rights cannot simply be extinguished because of gender.

Traditional rulers, town unions, community leaders, religious institutions and families should promote customs that uphold human dignity, fairness and peaceful coexistence. Anambra's traditional rulers have previously expressed commitments towards reviewing harmful cultural practices and strengthening protection for vulnerable persons.

The responsibility now is to ensure that the directive translates into action. Complaints must be properly investigated, victims must have access to justice, and cases that meet the evidential threshold must be prosecuted without fear or favour.

Ultimately, inheritance is not merely about land, houses or other property. It is about equality before the law and the recognition of every person's dignity and rights.

Anambra's latest step is therefore an important reminder that no daughter should be disinherited simply because she is a daughter, and no tradition should stand above the law.

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SOLUDO'S GOVERNMENT MOVES TO RECLAIM GOVERNMENT LANDS, RESTRUCTURE LAW ENFORCEMENT

By Stella Obi

The Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC) has ordered the repossession and repurposing of occupied government lands across the state, warning unauthorised occupants to vacate the properties or face enforcement action.

The decision was taken on Monday, September 28, 2026, at the 14th meeting of the second-term ANSEC of the Soludo Administration, held at the Light House, Awka.

The Council's decision followed reports of widespread encroachment on governmentowned lands and the growing need to reclaim such properties for government projects and other public purposes.



The government has consequently directed individuals and organisations occupying government lands without lawful authority to vacate them, warning that repossession and enforcement action could follow without further notice.

In another major decision, the Council approved the streamlining of state law enforcement groups to tackle overlapping functions and the proliferation of enforcement bodies.

The move is expected to clearly define the mandates of the various groups, reduce operational conflicts and duplication of duties, improve efficiency, and strengthen accountability to citizens.

The measures are part of the administration's broader efforts to strengthen governance, protect public assets, and improve the delivery of government programmes and services across the state.

Also discussed at the meeting was the second edition of Onwa Dezemba, the Yuletide programme introduced by the Anambra State Government in December 2025.

The 2026 edition is scheduled for December, with many of the events that featured in the inaugural programme expected to return. New features will include documentaries highlighting how communities across Anambra celebrate the Yuletide season.

The government is seeking to harness and institutionalise the Yuletide period as an important time for Ndi Anambra to reconnect with one another, particularly with those at home, while participating in cultural and social activities.

The Council also resolved that the Anambra Mixed-Use Industrial City (AMIC) is poised to commence in earnest, with the government stepping up efforts to attract potential investors.

The administration is engaging prospective investors and highlighting key infrastructure and other essential enablers, including access roads, electricity, water supply, and security, as critical components of the industrial city's development.

The Council's decisions reflect the administration's continued focus on reclaiming public assets, strengthening institutional efficiency, promoting investment, and creating platforms for greater economic and social engagement across Anambra State.



INDEPENDENCE: SOLUDO URGES NIGERIANS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR NATION-BUILDING

By Ifeyinwa Ogwo

Anambra State Governor, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to sustaining the state's growth and development, while urging Nigerians to take responsibility for building a better nation.

Soludo made the call during an Independence Service held at the Cathedral Church of St. Faith, Awka, on Sept. 27, ahead of Nigeria's 65th Independence Anniversary on October 1. The Governor said Nigeria had made significant progress since independence but noted that much still needed to be done to achieve the country's full potential.

He urged citizens to contribute positively to national development and become part of the solution to the challenges confronting the country. "Nigeria has made significant progress, but a lot needs to be done, and every citizen has a role to play in building a better country," he said.

Soludo also expressed sympathy to the family of the schoolchild who recently lost his life in a flood incident in the state, noting that flooding had become increasingly challenging in some parts of Anambra. He identified uncontrolled runoff from residential compounds, failure to desilt drainage channels and deforestation as some of the factors contributing to the worsening flood situation.

The Governor urged residents to keep their surroundings clean, maintain drainage channels and avoid activities capable of obstructing the free flow of water.

On security, Soludo said his administration had strengthened the state's security architecture and introduced the "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign to encourage residents to promptly report suspicious activities and criminal incidents to security agencies.

Earlier, in a sermon titled "From Bondage to Freedom: God's Purpose for Nigeria," the Archbishop of the Province of the Niger, Most Rev. Alexander Ibezim, called on Nigerian leaders to use their positions to make meaningful contributions to national development. Ibezim urged leaders to remain accountable to the people and ensure that their policies and actions promote the progress and well-being of the country.

Reflecting on Nigeria's leadership since independence in 1960, the Archbishop said leaders come and go, stressing that those entrusted with authority should use their time in office to make positive and lasting contributions to the nation.

He also called on Nigerians to work together for the development of the country instead of constantly criticising it, urging citizens to contribute positively to national growth.

The Archbishop encouraged Governor Soludo to sustain his administration's efforts toward delivering the dividends of democracy to the people, acknowledging the achievements recorded during his first term.



INDEPENDENCE DAY: PRESIDENT TINUBU ASSURES NIGERIANS OF A PROGRESSIVE, REFORMED COUNTRY

...As Gov. Soludo Reads Address

By Ifeyinwa Ogwo

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has assured Nigerians of a progressive, reformed country filled with abundance and opportunity—one where prosperity is broadly shared, every child can dream beyond the circumstances of their birth, and the nation's immense promise is reflected in people's lives.

"Today, as we celebrate our independence, we must speak honestly about the journey so far, the choices we made, and the country we are determined to build from here."

President Tinubu's Independence Day address, themed "From Freedom to Prosperity," was read by the Anambra State Governor, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo during the 66th Independence Day anniversary celebration at Alex Ekwueme Square in Awka today, October 1.

"When I speak of prosperity, I do not speak merely of a larger economy, abstract numbers or better statistics. I mean something much more personal.

I mean a Nigeria in which the farmer can cultivate his land safely, produce more at lower cost, and earn a decent return for his labour.

"A Nigeria in which factories have reliable power, businesses can obtain credit, and young people can find productive work. A Nigeria in which food and transportation are affordable, education is within reach, and hard-working families can look towards the future with confidence," the message stated.

The message also said that lowering the cost of living is the President's priority.

"We will achieve this by lowering the cost of producing and moving the things Nigerians consume, and my government is focused on expanding



mechanised irrigation and dryseason farming, improving access to seeds and fertiliser, holistically increasing mechanisation, and investing in storage and transportation. We are building and completing the roads, railways and ports that connect farms and factories to markets," he added.

The event featured march past by the Nigeria Police Force, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Operation Clean and Healthy Anambra (OCHA Brigade), and pupils from various primary and secondary schools.





ANAMBRA SETS OCTOBER 3 FOR STATEWIDE CLEAN-UP EXERCISE



By Kennedy Aniedozie

The Anambra State Ministry of Environment has announced a statewide sanitation and clean-up exercise scheduled for Saturday, October 3, to mark the World and National Clean-Up Day.

The Commissioner for Environment, Dr. Clem Aguiyi, on Sept 30, said the exercise was aimed at promoting a clean, healthy and sustainable environment across the state, while urging residents to take responsibility for the cleanliness of their surroundings.

Aguiyi disclosed that business premises and markets are expected

to conduct their clean-up activities on October 1, and 2, ahead of the state-wide exercise.

He directed market leaders and business owners to ensure compliance with the directive, stressing that collective participation was essential to maintaining a clean and healthy environment across the state.

The ministry further announced that movement would be restricted across Anambra from 6:00 a.m to 10:00 a.m on October 3, except for persons providing essential services.

Residents, businesses, markets, institutions, community leaders and other stakeholders are expected to participate actively by cleaning their surroundings and ensuring the proper evacuation of waste.

The ministry also urged members of the public to cooperate with environmental officers, community sanitation teams and security agencies during the exercise.

Aguiyi called on Ndi Anambra to work together to sustain the state's environmental cleanliness and promote a culture of environmental responsibility.



ASHIA HOLDS GLOBAL FUND SECOND QUARTER DATA VALIDATION MEETING

By Chisom Okafor

The Anambra State Health Insurance Agency (ASHIA) has held its second quarter data validation meeting with Global Fund Programme Managers, Monitoring and Evaluation Officers and other stakeholders.

The meeting, held on September 30, at East End Hotel and Suites, Awka, reviewed and reconciled data on Global Fund supported health insurance activities in the state during the quarter

Addressing participants, the Executive Secretary of ASHIA, Dr Augustine Ezeka, appreciated the



stakeholders for their efforts and urged them to intensify activities aimed at expanding health insurance coverage for people living with HIV and tuberculosis (TB).

Ezeka stressed the need to ensure that eligible beneficiaries were not left behind in accessing health insurance coverage and necessary healthcare services

The Global Fund Focal Person, Nurse Ogochukwu Mbonu, presented the action plan for the second quarter validation exercise, saying the meeting provided an opportunity to review findings, clarify observations and ensure that the data accurately reflected programme activities.

Mbonu said enrolment had increased significantly, attributing the development largely to the field National Identification Number (NIN) enrolment exercise conducted to facilitate the registration of eligible beneficiaries.

She urged stakeholders to take greater responsibility for awareness creation and intensify sensitisation efforts to improve enrolment and access to the programme.

The Global Fund Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Miss Assumpta Ejikeme, presented an overview of the implementation of Global Fund supported health insurance for people living with HIV and TB under ASHIA.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Global Fund accredited facilities, implementing partners, programme managers, Monitoring and Evaluation Officers and other relevant stakeholders.



ASPHCDA ASSESSES HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN 2026 STAFF EXERCISE

By Nnedinma Okeke

The Anambra State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (ASPHCDA) has assessed eligible healthcare workers across the state's 21 local government areas (LGA) to determine their readiness for advancement, ensuring that qualified personnel are considered in line with established public service procedures.

The oral assessment, conducted at the ASPHCDA office complex in Awka from Sept. 24 to Sept. 30, followed a written examination held on Sept. 9 for eligible staff.

The exercise covered healthcare workers seeking advancement from Grade Level 6 to Grade Level 7 and Grade Level 13 to Grade Level 14, with eligibility determined by the applicable requirements for each category.

The assessment provided an opportunity for the agency to evaluate candidates against the relevant criteria and ensure that the process was conducted fairly and consistently

The exercise was overseen by the ASPHCDA Administration Department, headed by Mrs Cecilia Peter-Okoye, alongside members of the assessment panel.

Healthcare workers from the 21 LGAs participated according to their assigned categories and schedules, allowing the process to be conducted in an orderly manner.

The exercise was part of ASPHCDA's broader personnel management efforts to recognise qualified staff and maintain an effective workforce capable of supporting quality primary healthcare delivery across Anambra State.



ANAMBRA ORDERS STRUCTURAL TESTS ON SCHOOL HOSTELS TO SAFEGUARD STUDENTS

By MaryAnn Chukwuma

The Anambra State Government has moved to strengthen safety standards in boarding schools, ordering structural integrity tests on school hostels across the state to identify potential building defects, ensuring that students are accommodated in safe and sound facilities.

The decision was taken at the 14th Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC) meeting held at the Light House, Awka, on Sept. 28, according to a press release signed by the Commissioner for Information and Value Reformation, Dr. Law Mefor.

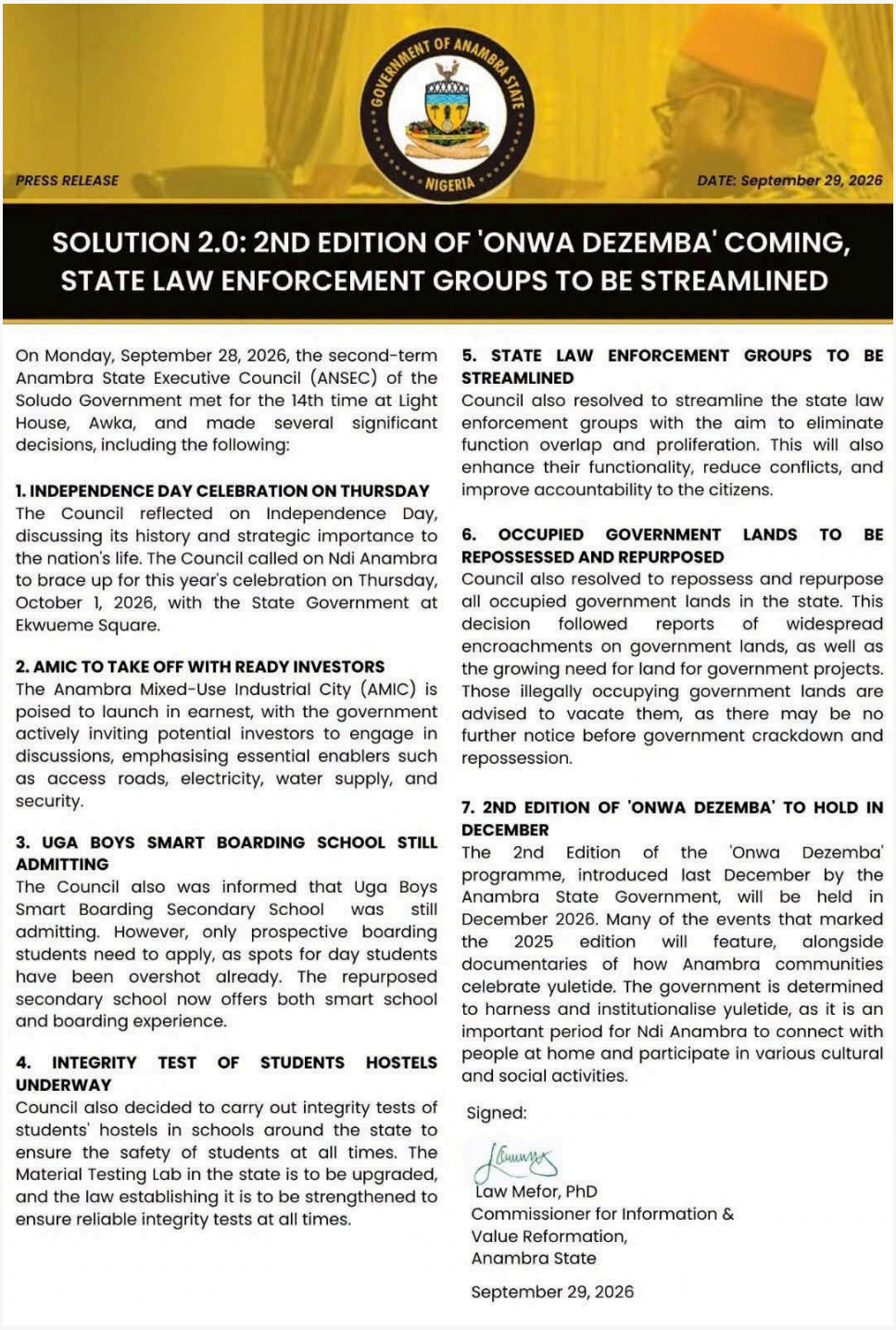
The testing will involve the state's Materials Testing Laboratory, which is to be upgraded to provide the technical capacity required to assess the condition and structural integrity of hostel facilities. The law establishing the laboratory will also be strengthened to support reliable and consistent testing.

The assessment is intended to provide government with technical information on the condition of school hostels, helping to identify facilities requiring attention and guide decisions on necessary repairs, rehabilitation or other safety measures. This places the physical safety of students at the centre of decisions concerning boarding facilities.

ANSEC clarified that Uga Boys Smart Boarding Secondary School remains open for admission. Demand for day-student places has exceeded available capacity, while boarding spaces remain available.

On other decisions, the council said work towards the take-off of the Anambra Mixed-Use Industrial City (AMIC) is progressing through engagement with investors and efforts to provide the necessary enabling environment. It announced activities for the 66th Independence Anniversary at Ekwueme Square, Awka, on October 1.

The council approved measures to streamline state law enforcement groups, with the aim of reducing overlapping functions, preventing avoidable conflicts and strengthening accountability. It also directed action to repossess illegally occupied government lands and announced the second edition of Onwa Dezemba for December 2026.



PRESS RELEASE

DATE: September 29, 2026

SOLUTION 2.0: 2ND EDITION OF 'ONWA DEZEMBA' COMING, STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT GROUPS TO BE STREAMLINED

On Monday, September 28, 2026, the second-term Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC) of the Soludo Government met for the 14th time at Light House, Awka, and made several significant decisions, including the following:

1. INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION ON THURSDAY
The Council reflected on Independence Day, discussing its history and strategic importance to the nation's life. The Council called on Ndi Anambra to brace up for this year's celebration on Thursday, October 1, 2026, with the State Government at Ekwueme Square.

2. AMIC TO TAKE OFF WITH READY INVESTORS
The Anambra Mixed-Use Industrial City (AMIC) is poised to launch in earnest, with the government actively inviting potential investors to engage in discussions, emphasising essential enablers such as access roads, electricity, water supply, and security.

3. UGA BOYS SMART BOARDING SCHOOL STILL ADMITTING
The Council also was informed that Uga Boys Smart Boarding Secondary School was still admitting. However, only prospective boarding students need to apply, as spots for day students have been overshot already. The repurposed secondary school now offers both smart school and boarding experience.

4. INTEGRITY TEST OF STUDENTS HOSTELS UNDERWAY
Council also decided to carry out integrity tests of students' hostels in schools around the state to ensure the safety of students at all times. The Material Testing Lab in the state is to be upgraded, and the law establishing it is to be strengthened to ensure reliable integrity tests at all times.

5. STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT GROUPS TO BE STREAMLINED
Council also resolved to streamline the state law enforcement groups with the aim to eliminate function overlap and proliferation. This will also enhance their functionality, reduce conflicts, and improve accountability to the citizens.

6. OCCUPIED GOVERNMENT LANDS TO BE REPOSSESSED AND REPURPOSED
Council also resolved to repossess and repurpose all occupied government lands in the state. This decision followed reports of widespread encroachments on government lands, as well as the growing need for land for government projects. Those illegally occupying government lands are advised to vacate them, as there may be no further notice before government crackdown and repossession.

7. 2ND EDITION OF 'ONWA DEZEMBA' TO HOLD IN DECEMBER
The 2nd Edition of the 'Onwa Dezemba' programme, introduced last December by the Anambra State Government, will be held in December 2026. Many of the events that marked the 2025 edition will feature, alongside documentaries of how Anambra communities celebrate yuletide. The government is determined to harness and institutionalise yuletide, as it is an important period for Ndi Anambra to connect with people at home and participate in various cultural and social activities.

Signed:

Law Mefor, PhD
Commissioner for Information &
Value Reformation,
Anambra State

September 29, 2026

Taken together, the decisions reflect a broader focus on strengthening public institutions, improving safety and accountability, protecting public assets and creating conditions for sustainable development across the state.

OGUGUA URGES TEACHERS TO RESIDE NEARER DUTY POSTS, DEMANDS BETTER PERFORMANCE IN OTUOCHA ZONE



By Obiageli Nwankwo

The Anambra State Commissioner for Education, Dr. Ekene Ogugua, has urged teachers and school administrators to reside closer to their duty posts to improve their availability and efficiency.

Ogugua made the call on Sept. 29, while addressing principals from Otuocha Zone at a meeting convened by the Ministry of Education at the ASUBEB Utility Hall, Awka, to review challenges facing schools in the zone.

He said spending substantial income and time commuting to distant workplaces was counterproductive, urging teachers to consider accommodation within reasonable distance of their schools whenever circumstances permitted.

The commissioner expressed concern over reports of poor performance among some teachers and principals posted to the zone, warning that the ministry would not tolerate negligence or inefficiency.

Ogugua said teachers should decide whether they were prepared to work diligently or resign, adding that government plans were nearing completion to recruit more teachers across the zone.

He said the ministry would also scrutinise transfers and recruitment into the zone, warning that applicants who secured employment as indigenes before seeking transfers elsewhere after appointment would no longer be allowed to do so.

The commissioner urged principals to take responsibility for improving learning outcomes by initiating practical changes while government addressed major infrastructure and resource challenges facing schools in the zone.

Ogugua pledged to present the zone's pressing needs to Governor Chukwuma Soludo for possible intervention in infrastructure and teaching tools, while urging principals to develop solutions within their authority

The Permanent Secretary, Dr. Ifeoma Agbaizu; Director, SEQAD, Dr. Sabina Ndigwe; and Otuocha Zonal Director, Mrs. Nkoli Agata, called for stronger leadership and collaboration with communities to improve education in the zone.

The meeting ended with participants reaffirming their commitment to improving the quality of education across Anambra.

ANAMBRA LAUNCHES NEW DIGITAL GATEWAY, BRINGS GOVERNMENT SERVICES, OPEN DATA AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT UNDER ONE ROOF

By Angela Nwanodu

The Anambra State Government has launched a redesigned official website, creating a more accessible digital gateway to government services, information, opportunities and citizen engagement.

The new platform now live at https://anambrastate.gov.ng/, brings together key government services and digital platforms while providing residents, businesses, investors, visitors and development partners with a more structured way to navigate government.

Rather than serving only as a repository of government news, the website is organised around what users need to do, including finding government services, accessing identification services, registering businesses and reporting issues.

The platform also connects users to digital government tools, including SmartGov services and NORA, the state's digital assistant, while providing direct access to citizen feedback, grievance redress and Freedom of Information channels.

A major component of the new digital gateway is its Open Government section, providing access to budgets, citizens' budgets, budget implementation reports, audit reports, procurement plans, contract awards, open data, government documents and FOI requests.

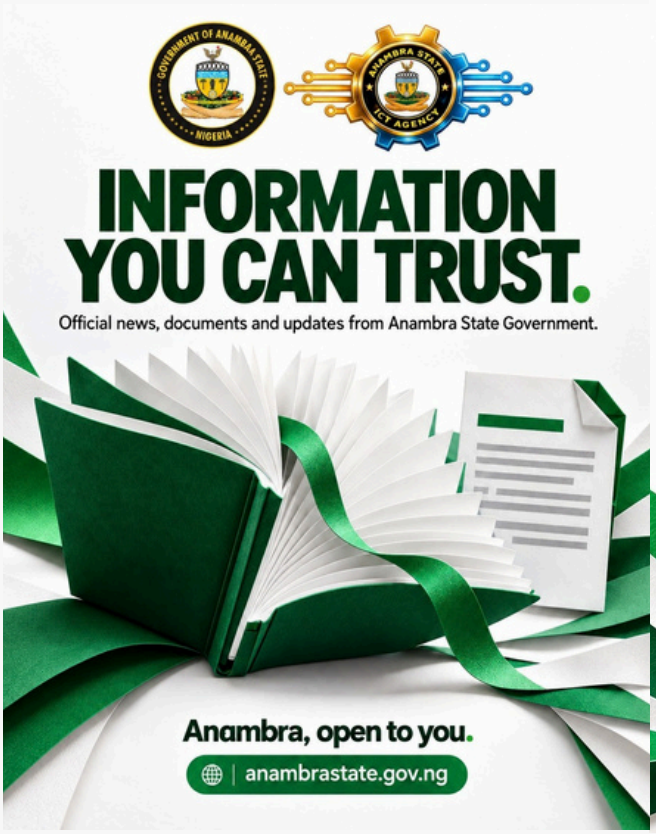
The website also provides dedicated pathways to investment opportunities, with information covering ease of doing business, public-private partnerships, manufacturing, technology, real estate, agriculture and tourism, alongside information about Anambra's people, culture and heritage.

It further provides information on relevant government offices and links users to government systems, creating a more connected digital experience across Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

The launch represents another step in Anambra's broader digital transformation agenda, with the website designed not simply to tell citizens what government is doing, but to help them find services, access information, engage government and explore opportunities from a single digital gateway.

The Anambra State Government will continue to expand and update the platform as more government services, information and digital tools are brought into the state's wider digital ecosystem

Welcome to the new digital gateway of the Light of the Nation.





NOCEN PROVOST COMMENDS SOLUDO'S EDUCATION REFORMS, URGES STAFF TO EMBRACE CONTINUOUS TRAINING

By Obianuju Azukaego

The Provost of Nwafor Orizu College of Education (NOCEN), Nsugbe, Prof. Victor Obiora Ndirika, has commended the Anambra State Governor, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, for his efforts towards the development of the education sector in the state. Prof. Ndirika gave the commendation on Sept. 24 during a one-day training workshop organised for the college's non-teaching staff.

The Provost said the Soludo administration had brought significant transformation to the college and other state-owned institutions, noting that the ongoing changes required staff to continuously update their knowledge and skills. He described the workshop as timely, particularly as the college undergoes institutional transformation.

Prof. Ndirika stressed that institutional development goes beyond infrastructure and physical facilities, adding that building the capacity of personnel responsible for driving and sustaining growth was equally important. He noted that the transition from analogue to digital systems had created new demands for workers in education and administration. He urged the non-teaching staff to take full advantage

of the training and apply the knowledge acquired to improve their skills, professionalism, expertise and productivity. He also commended the organising committee, led by Dr. J.N. Achufusi, for putting the programme together.

Delivering her lecture, Dr. Chinenye Gloria Okeke addressed issues relating to effective leadership, professionalism, work ethics and efficiency in higher education administration. She explained that effective administration plays an important role in supporting teaching, research and community service while helping Colleges of Education maintain expected standards.

A major focus of her presentation was the "5Cs of College Leadership"- Character, Competence, Communication, Collaboration and Commitment. Dr. Okeke urged staff to maintain high standards of professionalism by understanding institutional rules and regulations, demonstrating appropriate workplace conduct, and upholding respect, accountability and confidentiality.

On work ethics, the resource person highlighted punctuality, diligence, honesty, loyalty and teamwork, while cautioning against practices capable of undermining institutional

credibility and effective service delivery. She also encouraged staff to embrace technology, proper planning, delegation, effective time management and continuous professional development. Dr. Okeke identified bureaucratic delays, poor recordkeeping, unclear guidelines, inadequate interdepartmental communication and resistance to technological change as some of the challenges affecting institutional efficiency. She urged the staff to lead with integrity, maintain professionalism, uphold strong ethical standards and deliver services efficiently





PETER UNIVERSITY CONCLUDES MANDATORY SKILLS ACQUISITION PROGRAMME



By Nkiru Anakor

Peter University, Achina/Onneh, Anambra State, has concluded its two week Mandatory Skills Acquisition Programme for the 2026/2027 academic session, with students trained in various entrepreneurial and technical skills.

The programme, which commenced earlier in September, covered shoemaking, barbing, hair styling, fish farming, solar installation, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) camera installation, computer repairs, Artificial Intelligence (AI) automation and graphics design, among others.

The students selected areas of interest and participated in practical sessions throughout the programme. At the closing ceremony held on Sept. 25, the students displayed some of the products and skills acquired during the training.

Speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor of Peter University, Rev. Fr. Chukwuemenam Emmanuel Umezinwa, said the programme was aimed at complementing academic education with practical skills. Umezinwa said the university's vision was for every student to acquire proficiency in at least four practical skills before graduation.

He said skills acquisition had been integrated into the university's curriculum, urging the students to continue practising and developing the skills acquired. The vice-chancellor also encouraged the students to apply the skills productively beyond the training programme.



ANAMBRA BEGINS MANDATORY REGISTRATION OF SPORTS PRACTITIONERS

By Ifeoma Aniagbado

The Anambra State Government has commenced the registration and data capture of sports practitioners across the state as part of efforts to strengthen grassroots sports development.

The Commissioner for Youth Development and Sports, Mr. Patrick Agha Mba, is monitoring the exercise, while ministry officials have visited registration centres in Aguata, Awka South, Dunukofia and Onitsha North Local Government Areas. The exercise is aimed at documenting sports instructors, officers and administrators and preparing them for subsequent retraining and certification.

Participants can also obtain the Anambra State Identification Number (ASIN) during the registration exercise, which the state government requires residents to have.

Registration is scheduled to end on Sept. 30, after which registered practitioners will proceed to the training and certification phase.

The training will focus on areas including sports administration, coaching, safety, safeguarding, anti-doping and other relevant technical skills, in line with the ministry's plan to improve standards in grassroots sports.

The commissioner said the initiative was part of efforts to build a stronger sports ecosystem in Anambra by ensuring that practitioners are properly documented, trained and certified. The monitoring exercise by the commissioner and visits by ministry officials are expected to support accurate data capture and ensure wider participation by sports practitioners across the state.







ANAMBRA, JAMB MOVE TO EASE CANDIDATE REGISTRATION

By Obiageli Nwankwo

Prospective JAMB candidates in Anambra State are set to receive more guidance on registration, course eligibility and examination preparation under a proposed state-wide sensitisation programme by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), in collaboration with the Anambra State Ministry of Education.

Commissioner for Education, Dr. Ekene Ogugua, stated this on Sept. 29, when he received the JAMB Anambra State Coordinator, Dr. Dinah Ifunanya Obiano, and her team during a courtesy visit to his office in Awka.

The engagement focused on measures to help candidates avoid registration errors, understand

admission requirements and make informed choices as they prepare for tertiary education. Ogugua described JAMB as an important link between secondary and tertiary education, stressing that effective coordination among education stakeholders would help students prepare adequately for registration and examinations and ensure a smoother transition to higher institutions.

He assured the JAMB team that challenges affecting the state office would be brought to the attention of the state government for consideration and possible intervention. Earlier, Obiano said the visit was aimed at securing the ministry's support for a state-wide sensitisation programme for prospective candidates, teachers and guidance counsellors ahead of JAMB registration and examinations.

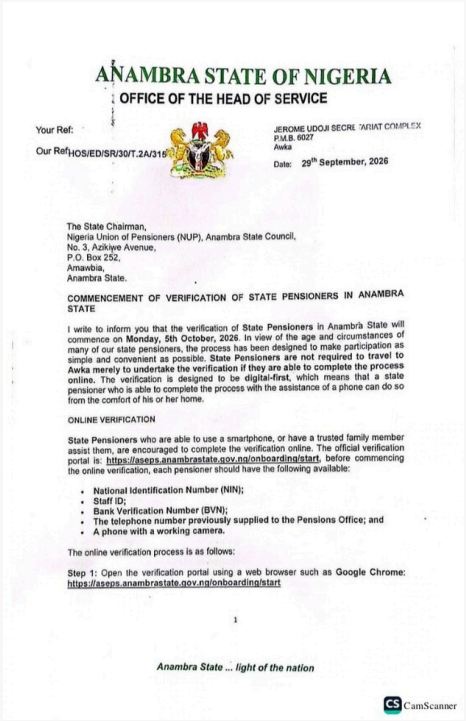
Obiano advised candidates to carefully verify their names and other personal information before completing registration, noting that discrepancies could create difficulties during admission and subsequent registration in tertiary institutions. She also disclosed plans for a pre-registration application that would allow candidates to submit basic details electronically from home and check their eligibility for preferred courses before completing the formal JAMB registration process.

The proposed sensitisation programme and digital pre-registration initiative are expected to help candidates understand registration requirements, reduce avoidable errors, assess course eligibility and prepare more confidently for the admission process. The JAMB coordinator also a

ppealed for government intervention to address challenges facing the state office, including limited Computer-Based Test capacity, inadequate space and security concerns, noting that expanded CBT infrastructure could ease registration and examination logistics for candidates in the state.



ANAMBRA MAKES PENSIONERS' VERIFICATION EASIER FROM OCT. 5



ANAMBRA STATE OF NIGERIA
OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF SERVICE

Your Ref:
Our Ref HOS/ED/ISR/30/T.2A/316

JEROME UDOJI SECRETARIAT COMPLEX
P.M.B. 6027
Awka
Date: 29th September, 2026

The State Chairman,
Nigeria Union of Pensioners (NUP), Anambra State Council,
No. 3, Azikiwe Avenue,
P.O. Box 252,
Amawbia,
Anambra State.

COMMENCEMENT OF VERIFICATION OF STATE PENSIONERS IN ANAMBRA STATE

I write to inform you that the verification of State Pensioners in Anambra State will commence on Monday, 5th October, 2026. In view of the age and circumstances of many of our state pensioners, the process has been designed to make participation as simple and convenient as possible. State Pensioners are not required to travel to Awka merely to undertake the verification if they are able to complete the process online. The verification is designed to be digital-first, which means that a state pensioner who is able to complete the process with the assistance of a phone can do so from the comfort of his or her home.

ONLINE VERIFICATION

State Pensioners who are able to use a smartphone, or have a trusted family member assist them, are encouraged to complete the verification online. The official verification portal is: https://aseps.anambrastate.gov.ng/onboarding/start, before commencing the online verification, each pensioner should have the following available:

- National Identification Number (NIN);
- Staff ID;
- Bank Verification Number (BVN);
- The telephone number previously supplied to the Pensions Office; and
- A phone with a working camera.

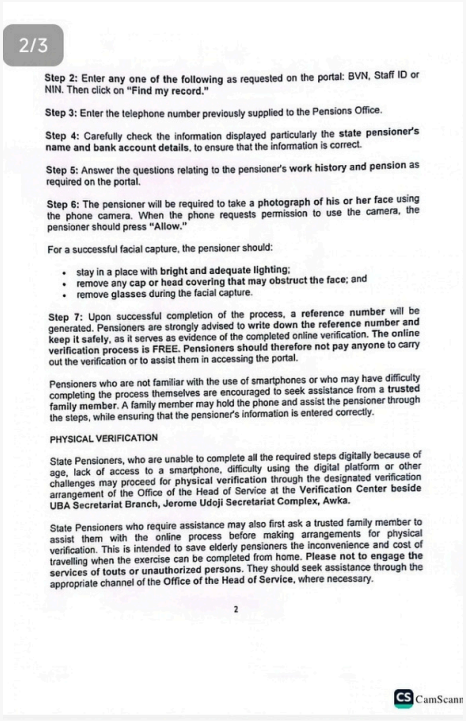
The online verification process is as follows:

Step 1: Open the verification portal using a web browser such as Google Chrome: https://aseps.anambrastate.gov.ng/onboarding/start

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Anambra State ... light of the nation

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Step 2: Enter any one of the following as requested on the portal: BVN, Staff ID or NIN. Then click on "Find my record."

Step 3: Enter the telephone number previously supplied to the Pensions Office.

Step 4: Carefully check the information displayed particularly the state pensioner's name and bank account details, to ensure that the information is correct.

Step 5: Answer the questions relating to the pensioner's work history and pension as required on the portal.

Step 6: The pensioner will be required to take a photograph of his or her face using the phone camera. When the phone requests permission to use the camera, the pensioner should press "Allow."

For a successful facial capture, the pensioner should:

- stay in a place with bright and adequate lighting;
- remove any cap or head covering that may obstruct the face; and
- remove glasses during the facial capture.

Step 7: Upon successful completion of the process, a reference number will be generated. Pensioners are strongly advised to write down the reference number and keep it safely, as it serves as evidence of the completed online verification. The online verification process is FREE. Pensioners should therefore not pay anyone to carry out the verification or to assist them in accessing the portal.

Pensioners who are not familiar with the use of smartphones or who may have difficulty completing the process themselves are encouraged to seek assistance from a trusted family member. A family member may hold the phone and assist the pensioner through the steps, while ensuring that the pensioner's information is entered correctly.

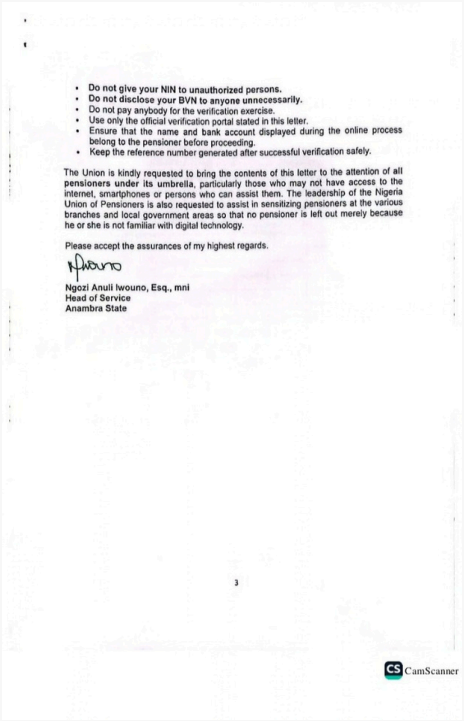
PHYSICAL VERIFICATION

State Pensioners, who are unable to complete all the required steps digitally because of age, lack of access to a smartphone, difficulty using the digital platform or other challenges may proceed for physical verification through the designated verification arrangement of the Office of the Head of Service at the Verification Center beside UBA Secretariat Branch, Jerome Udoji Secretariat Complex, Awka.

State Pensioners who require assistance may also first ask a trusted family member to assist them with the online process before making arrangements for physical verification. This is intended to save elderly pensioners the inconvenience and cost of travelling when the exercise can be completed from home. Please not to engage the services of touts or unauthorized persons. They should seek assistance through the appropriate channel of the Office of the Head of Service, where necessary.

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- Do not give your NIN to unauthorized persons.
- Do not disclose your BVN to anyone unnecessarily.
- Do not pay anybody for the verification exercise.
- Use only the official verification portal stated in this letter.
- Ensure that the name and bank account displayed during the online process belong to the pensioner before proceeding.
- Keep the reference number generated after successful verification safely.

The Union is kindly requested to bring the contents of this letter to the attention of all pensioners under its umbrella, particularly those who may not have access to the internet, smartphones or persons who can assist them. The leadership of the Nigeria Union of Pensioners is also requested to assist in sensitizing pensioners at the various branches and local government areas so that no pensioner is left out merely because he or she is not familiar with digital technology.

Please accept the assurances of my highest regards.

Ngozi Anuli Iwouno, Esq., mni
Head of Service
Anambra State

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By MaryAnn Chukwuma

The Anambra State Government will begin verification of state pensioners on Oct. 5, 2026, allowing eligible pensioners to complete the exercise digitally from home without travelling to Awka.

The Head of Service, Ngozi Anuli Iwouno, announced this in a letter dated Sept. 29, addressed to the State Chairman, Nigeria Union of Pensioners, Anambra State Council. Under the arrangement, pensioners who successfully complete the online verification will not be required to appear physically at the designated centre. Those who need assistance may use a smartphone with support from a trusted family member.

For online verification, pensioners should access the official verification portal: [PORTAL LINK TO BE INSERTED] and provide their National Identification Number (NIN), Staff ID, Bank Verification Number (BVN), telephone number previously submitted to the Pensions Office, and a smartphone with a functional camera.

The process involves entering and confirming identification, personal and bank details, providing information about employment and pension history, and completing a facial capture. Pensioners who successfully complete the exercise will receive a reference number, which they should keep safely as evidence of verification. Pensioners who cannot complete the digital process because of age, lack of a smartphone or other challenges may undergo physical verification at the designated centre beside UBA Secretariat Branch, Jerome Udoji Secretariat Complex, Awka.

The Head of Service urged all state pensioners to begin the verification process from October 5, use only the official portal, keep their reference numbers after successful completion, and seek assistance from trusted family members where necessary. She warned pensioners against unauthorised persons and touts, stressing that the exercise is free and no payment should be made to anyone to facilitate verification. The digitalfirst approach is intended to reduce unnecessary travel and make the verification process more accessible, while retaining a physical option for pensioners who require inperson assistance.

ANAMBRA POLICE WARN PARENTS, MOTORISTS AGAINST EXPOSING CHILDREN TO FLOOD RISKS

By Chizoba Njaka

The Anambra State Police Command has urged parents, guardians, schools, transport operators and other stakeholders to exercise heightened vigilance and take necessary precautions to protect schoolchildren following recent heavy rainfall and flooding in parts of the state. The warning followed a tragic incident in which a school pupil reportedly lost his life amid the flooding, prompting the Command to call for greater caution during periods of severe weather.

In a statement issued to journalists in Awka on Sept. 30, the Police Public Relations Officer, SP Tochukwu Ikenga, advised parents and guardians to avoid allowing children to travel during heavy rainfall, particularly in areas showing signs of flooding, strong water currents or overflowing roads and drainage channels.

SP Ikenga warned that children should never be allowed to cross flooded roads, bridges, drainage channels or waterways, regardless of how shallow or familiar such routes might appear, noting that floodwater could conceal open drains, erosion channels, culverts and other dangerous hazards.

He also urged parents and guardians to closely supervise schoolchildren before, during and after school hours, especially where their homes or schools are located in floodprone areas. According to him, parents should maintain direct communication with schools and transport providers during severe weather conditions and confirm the safety and location of their children before they begin their journey home.

The Police spokesperson further advised parents to teach children to stay away from floodwater, drainage channels, rivers, culverts and construction areas, and to move immediately to safe and elevated locations whenever flooding begins. He stressed that safety should take precedence over punctuality, urging parents not to pressure children, school bus operators or other drivers to proceed through flooded or unsafe routes.

The command also called on motorists, school bus operators and other transporters conveying children to exercise extreme caution during rainfall and discontinue movement whenever road conditions become unsafe. It further urged residents to promptly alert the Police or other emergency responders whenever anyone is missing, stranded or endangered by flooding. The PPRO said the Anambra State Police Command, through its Safe School initiatives and community policing structures, would continue to work with schools, communities and relevant stakeholders to strengthen the safety and protection of children across the state.

He emphasised that protecting children during severe weather remained a collective responsibility, urging parents, schools, communities, transport operators and security agencies to remain vigilant and respond promptly whenever flooding poses a threat to life.

The command consequently advised residents: "If the road is flooded, do not take the risk. Turn back and seek a safer route."



BEYOND ATTRACTIONS: BUILDING ANAMBRA AS A WELCOMING TOURISM DESTINATION

By Amara Obikwelu

A destination is judged not only by the attractions that draw visitors but also by the quality of experience it offers. For Anambra, developing tourism goes beyond showcasing its cultural heritage, historical sites, natural attractions and festivals to creating an environment where visitors can find safe accommodation, reliable services and a welcoming atmosphere.

The hospitality sector is central to this experience, as hotels, guest houses and other accommodation facilities influence how visitors perceive a destination and whether they are encouraged to return. The registration and monitoring of hospitality establishments by the Anambra State Ministry of Culture, Entertainment and Tourism are therefore important in maintaining standards, while visitors expect reasonable levels of cleanliness, comfort and safety.

Anambra has several attractions with tourism potential, including Ogbunike Cave, Agulu Lake and the cultural heritage associated with Nri and Igbo-Ukwu. However, transportation, accommodation, customer service, accessibility and the condition of facilities also shape visitors' impressions of a destination.

Technology has further changed how people discover destinations, make reservations, locate accommodation and share their experiences. Online reviews, social media and digital booking platforms influence travellers' decisions, making improved hospitality standards and appropriate use of technology important for helping tourism businesses reach wider audiences and making information and services more accessible.

Tourism also creates opportunities for local businesses and communities through accommodation, catering, transportation, entertainment, crafts and other visitor-related services. As the world marked World Tourism Day on Sept. 27, the occasion provided an opportunity for Anambra to reflect on the relationship between its attractions, hospitality services and visitor experience, and to ensure that the quality of services surrounding its cultural, historical and natural resources contributes positively to those who visit.

ANAMBRA STATE MPPUD DISOWNS PRIVATE ACCOUNT DEMANDS, WARNS PUBLIC AGAINST FRAUD

By Bonaventure Alufo

Anambra State Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development (MPPUD) has warned members of the public against paying assessment fees into private bank accounts, describing such demands as fraudulent and unauthorised.

In a public notice issued by the ministry, it stated categorically that it does not instruct any person to pay assessment fees into a private account. The ministry clarified that for the avoidance of doubt, every legitimate assessment fee demand issued by the ministry must be in writing, properly dated, and duly signed by the authorised issuing officer.

It added that assessment fee demands communicated solely through text messages, WhatsApp messages, or other informal channels are not official directives of the ministry. "Members of the public are strongly advised to beware of fraudsters and to verify any assessment fee demands with the ministry through the appropriate official phone numbers: 09021100004, 07065193618, before making any payment.

"The ministry further warns: "Do not pay into any private account on the strength of an unsolicited message," the statement said. The statement therefore advised the public to take note and be guided accordingly.



ANAMBRA GOVT MOVES TO CURB FLOODING AROUND NIBO, AWKA





By Sylvia Tochukwu-Ngige

The Anambra State Government, through the Awka Capital Territory Development Authority (ACTDA), has commenced emergency flood control works to address persistent flooding affecting communities around Nibo and the Awka metropolis following heavy seasonal rainfall across the state. On Sept. 28, officials of the Authority, led by its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Ossy Onuko, inspected and supervised the ongoing intervention at Nibo, near the Old Governor's Lodge, to ensure the timely and effective execution of the project.

As part of the intervention, a heavy-duty Swamp Buggy has been deployed to the floodprone area to create a large drainage channel aimed at diverting accumulated floodwater away from vulnerable residential areas and road infrastructure. The flooding had posed significant challenges to the Awka-Nibo Ring Road, making vehicular movement difficult and increasing the risk of water entering nearby homes, with potential damage to properties during periods of heavy rainfall.

The intervention forms part of the state government's broader efforts to address flooding within the Awka Capital Territory and protect lives, property and critical infrastructure from the effects of flooding. Residents of Nibo and adjoining communities have over the years experienced seasonal flooding, which often affects access roads, damages farmlands and creates environmental challenges during the peak of the rainy season

According to ACTDA, the newly created channel is expected to facilitate the free flow of storm water to appropriate discharge points, thereby reducing the risk of flooding on roads and preventing further encroachment of floodwater into residential areas around the Old Governor's Lodge. The Authority said the ongoing work reflects its commitment to responding promptly to environmental challenges and improving the safety and liveability of communities within the Awka Capital Territory.

Work is progressing at the site, with engineers and equipment operators continuing with the intervention. ACTDA also reassured residents of its commitment to sustainable flood management and improved urban infrastructure across the capital territory.

ANAMBRA GOVT MOVES AGAINST DENIAL OF FEMALES' INHERITANCE RIGHTS

By Kelechi Achukwu-Jide



The Anambra State Government has commenced moves to prosecute persons who deny women and girls the right to inherit property on the basis of their sex. The AttorneyGeneral and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Tobechukwu Nweke, SAN, disclosed this in a letter to the Nigeria Police Force requesting the investigation of reported cases of genderbased disinheritance. The letter, personally signed by Nweke, was made available to newsmen on Sept. 26.

The letter stated that denying women and girls the right to inherit property because they are female constitutes an offence under Section 22 of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, 2017 of Anambra State. According to the document, anyone convicted under the provision could face up to four years' imprisonment.

Nweke requested the police to investigate reported cases of gender-based disinheritance and forward the case files to the Ministry of Justice for further action. He said the ministry had designated its Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Unit to prosecute offenders under the law, alongside other cases involving domestic violence and sexual offences.

The development follows Supreme Court decisions declaring discriminatory customs and practices that prevent females from inheriting property unconstitutional and illegal. Despite the judicial pronouncements, the letter noted that some members of the public continued to engage in practices denying females their inheritance rights on the basis of their sex.

The directive therefore requires reported cases of gender-based disinheritance to be investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted in accordance with the provisions of the state law.

ASUWAHC ONITSHA INTENSIFIES REVENUE DRIVE, SERVES DISCONNECTION NOTICES ON WATER BILL DEFAULTERS

By Obinwa Chikaodili

The Anambra State Urban Water Assets Holdings Corporation (ASUWAHC), Onitsha Zone, has commenced an enforcement exercise aimed at improving compliance with water bill payments among consumers across the Onitsha metropolis. The exercise, which began on Sept. 28, involved the distribution of current water bills to consumers and the serving of disconnection notices on customers with outstanding bills.

The initiative, carried out under the leadership of the Officer-in-Charge of ASUWAHC, Onitsha Zone, Mrs. Emmanuella Okafor, is part of the corporation's efforts to strengthen accountability, improve revenue collection and ensure sustainable water service delivery. The field operation was led by the Onitsha Zonal Head, Engr. Francis C. Udoh, who said the exercise was aimed at encouraging consumers to fulfil their responsibility of paying for water services regularly.

Speaking during the exercise, Udoh said the initiative was in line with the reform agenda of the Solution Government, particularly its emphasis on sustainability, accountability and improved service delivery in the water sector. He explained that regular payment of water bills was essential to sustaining water production and distribution, as well as maintaining and upgrading the infrastructure required for effective service delivery.

According to him, revenue generated from water services would enable the corporation to maintain its facilities and strengthen its capacity to provide reliable water supply to consumers. The Zonal Head therefore appealed to customers with outstanding bills to settle their indebtedness promptly to avoid disconnection and support efforts to improve water services in the metropolis.

He urged consumers to regard regular payment of water bills as a shared responsibility, stressing that customer compliance was important to maintaining a sustainable public water supply system.

The exercise is part of ASUWAHC's broader efforts to strengthen revenue mobilisation, improve customer compliance and enhance the effective management and delivery of water services within the Onitsha Zone.



NIGERIA AT 66: MEFOR SAYS NATION HAS MADE APPRECIABLE PROGRESS, URGES GREATER FOCUS ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

By Lilian Ezejiegu

The Anambra State Commissioner for Information and Value Reformation, Dr Law Mefor, says Nigeria has made appreciable progress since independence, but should be doing better considering its enormous potential.

Dr. Mefor stated this in an interview with journalists in his office at the ministry's headquarters, Jerome Udoji Secretariat, Awka, where he reflected on Nigeria's 66-year journey and the task of national development.

He noted that the country's progress should be measured against its potential, stressing that : "Considering our potentialities, we should be doing a lot better than this." Mefor also highlighted Nigeria's diversity, saying, they need to put into consideration the fact that Nigeria is a multi-ethnic nation, 250 ethnic groups make up the country Nigeria. According to him, the diverse groups must work together for the good of the nation, stressing, "bringing them together to form a nation, is not a little task".

Reflecting on the country's 66 years of independence, the commissioner said, "66 years of independence in the life of a nation is not too long. And it means that our progress is appreciable."

He called for deliberate efforts to tackle the challenges confronting Nigeria, saying, "We should try and develop, resolve all the issues that confront us as a nation, and then we face the issue of national development squarely."

Mefor expressed confidence in Nigeria's potential, saying, "We have everything it takes to become a great nation," adding that the country should be "not just a giant of Africa, but at least a medium power in the world." He urged leaders to aim for and ensure the attainment of that vision.



AYICRIP BRINGS POLICE, YOUTH LEADERS TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN CRIME PREVENTION IN ANAMBRA



By Ukpa Ewa

The African Youths Initiative on Crime Prevention (AYICRIP), Nigeria, has brought police authorities, university student leaders and other stakeholders together in Anambra State to strengthen police-youth relations and promote collaboration in crime prevention.

The one-day Police-Youth Crime Prevention and Community Safety Dialogue, held at the Madubuko Min-Auditorium, Faculty of Social Sciences, Nnamdi Azikiwe University,

Awka, on Sept 28, focused on the theme, "Promoting Police-Youth Relationship and Preventing Negative Profiling Narratives for Improved Security in the South-East Region."

The event was attended by the Anambra State Commissioner of Police, CP Nnanna Oji Ama, represented by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Administration, DCP Ngozi Ezeabata; police area commanders; and representatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Nigeria Correctional Service, Nigeria Immigration Service and Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC).

Addressing participants, the Executive Director of AYICRIP, Amb. Chris Ibe, said the dialogue was organised against the backdrop of persistent mistrust between law enforcement agencies and citizens, particularly youths. He identified negative profiling, stereotyping, mutual suspicion and allegations of police brutality as some of the factors affecting police-youth relations.

Ibe stressed that the programme was not intended to apportion blame, but to provide a platform for constructive engagement and practical solutions to security challenges. He noted that strained relations between youths and security agencies could create opportunities for criminal elements to operate.

He encouraged youths to openly share their experiences and offer practical suggestions for improving police-youth relations, stressing that stronger cooperation was essential for effective crime prevention and safer communities. He also commended Nnamdi Azikiwe University and Spaces for Change for supporting the initiative.

Declaring the event open, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration, Prof. Hilda Osisioma, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ugochukwu Bond Stanley Anyaehie, commended AYICRIP for organising the dialogue and expressed hope that it would contribute to improved relations between security agencies and young people.

In her presentation, DCP Ngozi Ezeabata announced the introduction of the Anambra State Police-Youth Engagement Platform, with telephone number 09169531886, as a channel through which youths can engage the police and report alleged improper conduct by officers. She urged young people to make use of appropriate reporting channels, stressing that effective crime prevention requires open communication and cooperation between the police and youths.

Also speaking, the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof. Michael Ezenwa, advocated citizen-led policing and called for increased government investment in security agencies through improved recruitment, regular training, operational equipment and better conditions of service. He also urged government to invest in young people through education, skills acquisition and meaningful social protection programmes.

A major highlight of the event was an interactive question-and-answer session, during which participants engaged the speakers on police-youth relations and community safety. Awards were also presented to CP Nnanna Oji Ama, Prof. Michael Ezenwa and the Executive Director of the Rule of Law and Accountability Advocacy Centre, Mr. Okechukwu Nwanguma, in recognition of their contributions to humanity





COOU BUSINESS VENTURE TO HOST 3RD EDITION OF CHRISTMAS TRADE FAIR

By Uchechukwu Muolokwu

The Business Venture Committee (BVC) of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU), is set to host the 3rd Edition of the COOU BVC Christmas Trade Fair.

The two-day event is scheduled for 2nd and 3rd December, 2026, at the PG School Open Field, Old Site, Igbariam Campus, starting from 10:00 a.m. daily.

The Trade Fair was designed to create a vibrant platform for shopping, business promotion and support for local entrepreneurs within the university community.

"It will bring together vendors, entrepreneurs, students and members of the university community in a festive marketplace where businesses will showcase their products and services while visitors shop for the Christmas season", BVC said.

With the theme “Support · Shop · Grow,” the COOU BVC Christmas Trade Fair 3.0 promised a blend of commerce, community and Christmas celebrations.



COMMUNITY LEADER CALLS FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION AGAINST FLOODING

By David Okpala/Stella Okpala

Nze Henry C. Dim, immediate past President-General of Akpo Development Association (ADA), has called for collective action by residents to reduce the impact of flooding in Anambra.

Dim made the call during an interaction with Information Officers at Akpo, Aguata Local Government Area (LGA) of the state, on Sept. 29.

He urged residents to adopt precautionary measures, including keeping drainage channels free of debris and providing adequate water catchment facilities within their premises.

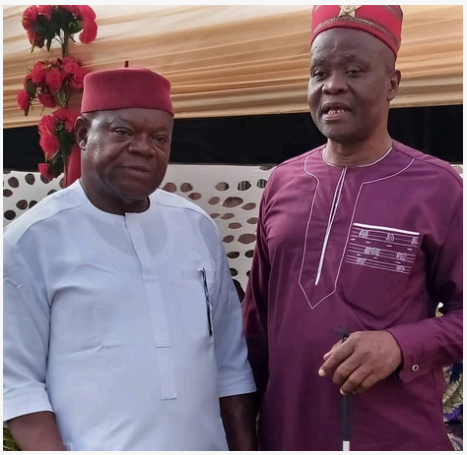
Dim commended Governor Chukwuma Soludo for road construction and rehabilitation projects across the state, including the construction of flyovers.

He, however, said flooding remained a challenge that could undermine the benefits of such infrastructure if residents failed to complement government efforts with responsible environmental practices.

The community leader urged residents to take responsibility for preventing the blockage of drainage channels and other activities that could worsen flooding.

He advised residents to construct catchment pits where necessary and desist from dumping refuse and other materials in gutters and water channels.

Dim commiserated with the Anambra Government, Ekwulobia community and the immediate family of the deceased, praying God to grant them the fortitude to bear the loss.



NNEWI NORTH MAYOR FLAGS OFF AND COMPLETES MEASLES-RUBELLA VACCINATION CAMPAIGN





By Enoch Uzuegbunam

As part of his commitment to a healthier Nnewi North, the Mayor of Nnewi North Local Government Area, Hon. Echezona Anazodo, has successfully flagged off and completed the Measles-Rubella Vaccination Campaign for children 0-14 years across Nnewi North.

The exercise, which covered all communities in the LGA, was a huge success.

The vaccination has protected thousands of children from the dangers of measles and rubella diseases that can lead to blindness, hearing loss and other life-threatening complications. This is a major investment in the health and future of children in the area.

The Mayor thanked all health workers, parents and guardians who made the exercise a success.

When health is prioritized, development follows