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SOLUDO'S VALUE REFORMATION AGENDA: FROM MANUAL TO MOVEMENT

The Anambra State Commissioner for Information and Value Reformation, Dr. Law Mefor, on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, formally opened a three-room Value Reformation Project Office at the ministry in Awka.

Addressing stakeholders at the event, Mefor said the office was a demonstration of good faith and commitment to the value reformation mandate given to the ministry by Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo.

He recalled that a few weeks ago, stakeholders gathered to tease out ways of activating the dual mandate, adding that since then, the team had worked online leveraging digital technology to produce a working manual that is now before the Governor and the Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC) for inputs.

The opening of the three-room Value Reformation Project Office at the Ministry of Information is small in size but large in symbolism. It signals that Anambra's value reformation agenda has moved from talk to work.

For decades, Ndi Anambra watched values erode. Hard work gave way to quick wealth, enterprise to deception. The ethos of Onye Anambra — wisdom, hardwork, fear of God and the age-long proverb, "aka aja aja na-ebute ọnụ mmanụ mmanụ" (No wealth without work) was assaulted by a satanic creed of wealth without work. Governor Chukwuma Charles Soludo was right to deliberately re-designate the Ministry of Information to Ministry of Information and Value Reformation. The dual mandate is a diagnosis: we cannot communicate progress without first reclaiming values.

Commissioner Law Mefor and his coalition of the willing deserve commendation. In weeks, leveraging digital technology, they teased out a comprehensive working manual now before ANSEC. But more importantly, they refused to wait. As Mefor rightly said, "it is better to have an imperfect document than none at all." Time and tide wait for no man.

The unveiling of the project office matters for three reasons. First, it creates a common home for all partners. It is not a monopoly for any group, but a hub for volunteers who genuinely want to help. Second, it demonstrates good faith to the Governor and ANSEC that the team is thinking and doing. Third, and most critical, it anchors the next phase: moral persuasion.

Every right thinking person will agree with the Commissioner's tripartite approach — legislation, moral suasion and enforcement. While the Attorney-General fine-tunes the law, persuasion must start now. You cannot lay ambush with a law against your own people. People must first know, understand and own the values before they are held accountable.

This is why the plan to expand "Malụmebe" a radio programme on Anambra Broadcasting Service (ABS) to five-station syndicated programme is strategic. To win Anambra in three to six months, there is need to dominate the airwaves. ABS alone cannot do it. The message must meet Ndi Anambra where they are — in their preferred stations, in their languages, in their homes.

The architecture as explained by Dr Mefor is also sound: state, local government, ward, community, and institutional layers, beginning from primary schools. This is important because if we catch them young, they will police their parents and we will have laid a foundation no future government can easily destroy.

But government cannot do it alone. The Ministry has done its part and passed the ball to stakeholders. Sponsoring a week, a month or a quarter of airtime, adopting a school, or a community, is not charity. It is investment in the Anambra we claim to want.

As Mahatma Gandhi said, be the change you want to see. Let us be that change. This is not child's play. It is about taking our state back.



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ANAMBRA'S EDUCATION RENAISSANCE UNDER SOLUTION GOVERNMENT: WHEN EXCELLENCE BECOMES A CULTURE



By Chinyere Ogbuagu

Anambra is once again demonstrating that excellence in education is not merely a slogan but a culture that can be deliberately cultivated, sustained and rewarded.

Within days of each other, two remarkable developments have placed the state's education sector on the national spotlight. Anambra pupils emerged first and second in the national quiz competition of the Science Teachers' Association of Nigeria (STAN), while teachers, school administrators and schools from the state secured nine of the 18 honours presented at the 2026 President's Teachers' and Schools' Excellence Awards in Abuja.

Taken together, these achievements show that when learners are given the right exposure, when teachers are supported to improve their professional capacity, and when school administrators are encouraged to pursue excellence, the results can be extraordinary.

At the 66th Annual Conference of STAN in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Okeke Delight Ugochukwu and Onwuzurigbo Chinaza Emmanuella, both of Holy Ghost International Primary School, Awka, emerged first and second respectively in the national quiz competition for primary pupils. Their success was complemented by other strong performances from Anambra, including Obi-Okwubanego Chimamanda Flora of Gonzaga Jesuit College, who placed fourth in the national secondary school quiz, and St. Charles College, Onitsha, which secured fourth position in the Secondary School Project category.

These are more than individual accomplishments. They are evidence of the intellectual capacity of Anambra's children and a reminder that young people flourish when education moves beyond rote learning and creates opportunities for curiosity, experimentation, competition and innovation.

The state's showing at the President's Teachers' and Schools' Excellence Awards reinforces the same message from another direction.

Mrs. Gloria Nkolika Odionu of Awada Primary School 4, Obosi, was named Overall Best Public Primary School Administrator in Nigeria, earning a Jetour vehicle as part of her prize. Mrs. Agatha Chika Ofojindu was also named Best Public Junior Secondary School Administrator in Nigeria and received a tricycle.

Beyond these individual honours, Anambra secured nine of the 18 awards presented nationally, half of the available honours. The state recorded outright victories across several categories involving teachers, administrators and both public and private schools, while also emerging first runner-up in the Best Public Secondary School Teacher category.

The significance of this performance should not be lost in the excitement of the awards. Education system does not produce outstanding pupils by accident. Behind every successful learner are teachers who understand their subjects, administrators who create enabling environments, parents who provide support and institutions that recognise and reward hard work.

Against this backdrop, Anambra's impressive achievements should be seen as more than a collection of awards. They are clear indicators of the renewed attention being given to education under the Prof. Chukwuma Charles Soludo-led administration and evidence of deliberate efforts to build a system where excellence is nurtured, encouraged and rewarded.

The remarks of the Anambra State Commissioner for Education, Dr. Ekene Ogugua, after receiving the STAN award-winning pupils and students, are particularly relevant. His recognition that sustained exposure to STEM education helps develop creativity, confidence and academic potential points to an important truth: modern education must prepare children not only to pass examinations but also to think, solve problems and create.

This is where the partnership between the Ministry of Education and STAN becomes important. The association's planned workshops, conferences, competitions and publications can help strengthen teachers' professional capacity and improve classroom delivery. Its call for support for training programmes addressing identified learning gaps in WAEC, NECO and BECE also deserves serious consideration.

Teacher development should not be treated as an occasional intervention. It is a continuous investment. Curricula change, technology evolves and the learning needs of children change with them. A teacher who is adequately trained, professionally motivated and exposed to new

methods is better positioned to inspire students and produce the kind of outcomes now being celebrated nationally.

At the same time, awards should serve as more than ceremonial recognition. They should become instruments for institutional learning. Anambra should study what its winning teachers, administrators and schools are doing differently and identify practices that can be replicated across the state.

The nine national honours offer an opportunity to ask an even more important question: What can be learned from these winners that will benefit the thousands of pupils and students who did not receive an award?

The answer must include stronger mentoring systems, wider access to STEM opportunities, sustained teacher training, better support for school administrators and increased encouragement for academic competitions and innovation.

There is also a lesson here for the wider Nigerian education system. At a time when concerns about learning outcomes, teacher capacity and the quality of basic education remain widespread, the performance of Anambra's learners and educators provides evidence that improvement is possible when commitment is matched with action.

But celebration must be accompanied by responsibility.

The danger after a remarkable performance is to become satisfied with the trophy rather than sustain the conditions that produced it. The real measure of success will therefore not be the number of awards won in 2026. It will be whether the momentum continues next year and in the years after; whether more public schools produce outstanding administrators; whether more teachers are equipped to close learning gaps; and whether more children discover the confidence to compete successfully on national platforms.

Anambra has every reason to celebrate its pupils, teachers, administrators and schools. From the young quiz champions in Awka to the national award winners in Abuja, they have shown what Nigerian education can achieve when talent meets preparation and commitment.

The task now is to turn exceptional performances into a sustained standard.

If Anambra can transform these moments of national recognition into a long-term culture of teacher development, STEM innovation, professional excellence and learner-centred education, then the greatest prize will not be another trophy or vehicle.

It will be a generation of young Anambra people equipped to compete, innovate and lead, not only in Nigeria, but in the world.

AWKA SOUTH MAYOR JOINS SOLUDO, UZODIMMA AT COMMISSIONING OF EFCC AWKA ZONAL DIRECTORATE

By Chinyere Nwoye

The Mayor of Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State, Prince Chinedu Okafor, has joined the Governor of Anambra State, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, and other dignitaries at the official commissioning of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Awka Zonal Directorate.

The event brought together key government officials and other stakeholders, including the Governor of Imo State, Senator Hope Uzodimma, as the new EFCC facility was formally inaugurated in Awka.

The Awka Zonal Directorate is expected to serve as a regional office with jurisdiction over Anambra and Imo States, providing an expanded institutional presence for the EFCC in the Southeast.

Speaking on the significance of the development, the Awka South Mayor said the presence of the EFCC in Awka is expected to strengthen efforts toward preventing and combating economic and financial crimes within the region, while enhancing collaboration with relevant government institutions and stakeholders.

For Awka South, the commissioning also represents another milestone in the continued development and growing prominence of the local government and its host city.

The establishment of the strategic federal institution further adds to the number of important government agencies and institutions operating within Awka, reinforcing the city's growing role as an administrative centre and emerging economic hub in the Southeast.



SOLUDO URGES 2026 BATCH 'C' CORPS MEMBERS TO ACQUIRE SKILLS, UPHOLD INTEGRITY

By Chidimma Ajemba

Anambra State Governor, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, has urged members of the 2026 Batch 'C' Stream I of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to acquire additional skills, uphold integrity and contribute meaningfully to society.

Soludo gave the charge on October 1, through the Commissioner for Youth Development and Sports, Mr Patrick Agha Mba, who represented him at the swearing-in and opening ceremony held at the NYSC Orientation Camp in Umuawulu/Mbaukwu.

The governor described the NYSC scheme as an important platform for national integration, patriotism, youth development and nation-building, bringing young Nigerians from diverse backgrounds together to serve outside their familiar environments.

He said his administration had prioritised human capital development through investments in education, skills acquisition, technology, entrepreneurship and innovation, urging the Corps Members to take advantage of available government programmes.

Soludo disclosed that the One Youth, Two Skills programme had empowered 5,000 youths with about N2 billion in its first phase, while 8,300 beneficiaries received N3.5 billion during the second phase.

He said the third phase of the programme would commence soon, urging the Corps Members to take advantage of it, as well as the Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme and other initiatives designed to equip young people with practical and entrepreneurial skills.

The governor also highlighted his administration's investments in technology through the Solution Innovation District, Code Anambra and Digital Tribe, noting that more than 30,000 youths had received training in digital skills and related areas. "Your degree is valuable. But add a skill to it. Your certificate may







open a door; competence, character and creativity will keep you inside," Soludo said.

He urged the Corps Members to serve professionally at their Places of Primary Assignment, respect the cultures and traditions of their host communities, remain security-conscious and use their Community Development Service to address identified needs in their host communities.

TINUBU COMMISSIONS EFCC ZONAL DIRECTORATE IN AWKA, PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR ANTI-GRAFT FIGHT









By Ifeyinwa Ogwo

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has commissioned the new Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Zonal Directorate Complex in Awka, Anambra State, describing the facility as part of efforts to strengthen the commission's operations and expand its reach in the Southeast. The facility, commissioned on October 2, will serve Anambra and Imo states.

Represented by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, President Tinubu commended the EFCC leadership for its efforts in the fight against corruption, noting that the commission's activities were critical to advancing economic reforms and promoting good governance. He said decentralising the commission's operations in the southeast would extend its presence and impact across different sectors of society.

The president assured the EFCC of the federal government's continued support and an enabling environment to effectively discharge its mandate. He added that strengthening the commission would help build confidence among businesses to operate without fear of corruption and other financial crimes.

Speaking at the ceremony, Anambra State Governor, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, welcomed the President, Imo State Governor and other dignitaries to the state, describing the establishment of the EFCC directorate in Awka as a welcome development. He said the presence of the commission would strengthen the fight against economic and financial crimes and promote law and order, while pledging collaboration in taxation, revenue collection and training of local government officials and civil servants on procurement procedures.

Soludo, recalling his experience as a former Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, said he had once been invited by the EFCC for questioning after leaving office, but that no evidence was filed against him following the investigation. He urged the commission to always provide feedback to persons invited for interrogation and commended its professionalism.

Imo State Governor, Sen. Hope Uzodimma, thanked President Tinubu for establishing the directorate in Awka, saying it would reduce the burden of travelling to Abuja or Lagos for official engagements with the Commission. He also requested the establishment of a smaller EFCC Office in Imo State to further bring the commission's services closer to residents.

Earlier, EFCC Executive Chairman, Mr. Ola Olukoyede, said the new facility would expand the commission's operational capacity, improve public access to its services and strengthen collaboration with Nigerians in the fight against economic and financial crimes. He commended Governor Soludo for providing the facility, describing it as an expression of confidence in the commission's ability to contribute to the state's development.

Olukoyede disclosed that between October 2023 and July, the commission received 49,673 petitions, investigated 39,615 cases, filed 14,476 cases in court and secured 10,872 convictions, representing a 75.1 per cent conviction-to-filing ratio. He added that the commission recorded 1,370 convictions from 1,889 filings in the first half of 2026 and recovered N1.233 trillion, $684.48 million, £373,905.78 and €9.34 million, alongside other currencies.

He said the commission had also introduced policies on gifts and h ospitality, conflict of interest and exhibit-room security, while restructuring its Affairs Department into the Ethics and Integrity Department as part of its internal reforms. Olukoyede assured that the Awka Zonal Directorate would justify its establishment through professionalism and commitment to the EFCC's mandate, contributing to a safer environment for legitimate businesses, investment and prosperity in Anambra, Imo and Nigeria.

SOLUDO SAYS FIGHT AGAINST FINANCIAL CRIMES IS COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

By Cordelia Akueche

Governor Chukwuma Soludo of Anambra has described the fight against corruption and financial crimes as a collective responsibility, saying no society can achieve sustainable development under the weight of such crimes.

Soludo stated this on Oct. 2, while delivering the keynote address at the commissioning of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Zonal Directorate in Awka. The facility, located at Udoka Estate, was commissioned on behalf of President Bola Tinubu by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, and will serve Anambra and Imo states.

Soludo welcomed the establishment of the directorate, commending the EFCC for decentralising its operations and bringing the fight against financial crimes closer to the grassroots. "Fighting crime is everybody's business, and the work of the EFCC is pivotal for our national development," he said.

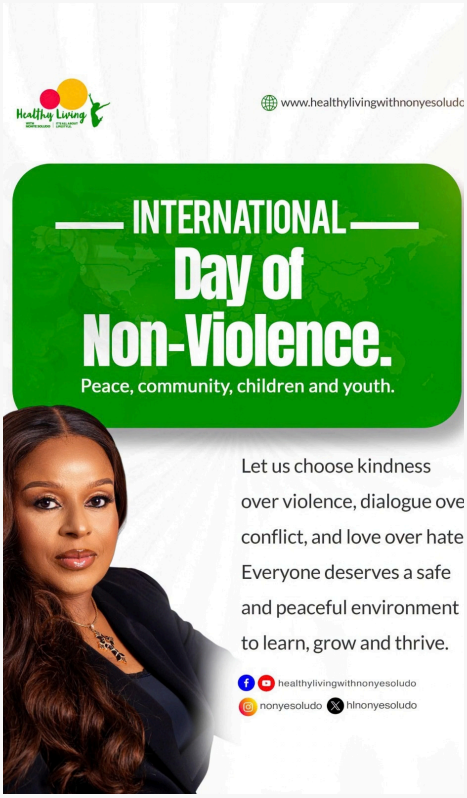
The governor recalled his experience with the EFCC after leaving office as Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, saying he honoured an invitation from the commission during an investigation involving the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company. He said he cooperated with the investigation until its conclusion.

Soludo stressed that people deserved to know the outcome of investigations, adding, "People deserve to know the end of every investigation, and we will help you produce results for our people."





NONYE SOLUDO CALLS FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES WHERE CHILDREN, YOUTHS CAN THRIVE



By MaryAnn Chukwuma

The wife of the Anambra State Governor, Dr. Nonye Soludo, has called for safer and more peaceful communities where children and young people can grow, learn and thrive without fear.

Dr. Soludo made the call in a message on Friday, Oct. 2, to commemorate the International Day of Non-Violence, observed annually on Oct. 2 in honour of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday.

In the message, shared through her Healthy Living platform, Dr. Soludo urged individuals and communities to promote kindness, dialogue, understanding and mutual respect as practical ways of preventing violence and strengthening peaceful coexistence.

She emphasised that children and young people need supportive environments where they feel safe, valued and protected, stressing that building such communities requires responsibility from individuals, families and the wider society.

"Let us build communities where every child and young person feels safe, loved and protected," she said.

Dr. Soludo noted that peaceful communities are built through everyday choices and actions, urging residents to reject violence and embrace values that promote understanding, safety and respect for one another.

The United Nations marks the International Day of Non-Violence to promote nonviolence through education and public awareness, while encouraging peace, tolerance and understanding.

Dr. Soludo's message reinforces the importance of dialogue and peaceful engagement in creating communities where children and young people can develop with confidence and a sense of security.

FREE MEDICAL OUTREACH BRINGS HEALTHCARE CLOSER TO NANKA RESIDENTS

By Ebele Egoh

Residents of Nanka and neighbouring communities have benefited from a one-day free medical outreach organised by the management of Ofuobi General Hospital, Nanka, as part of efforts to improve access to quality healthcare.

Speaking during the outreach, the Anambra State Hospital Administrator, Dr. Frank Ifeanaeme, encouraged residents to make regular use of the hospital, assuring them that qualified health professionals are available to provide appropriate care.

He cautioned residents against patronising unqualified practitioners, noting that seeking treatment from untrained providers could put their health at risk.

Ifeanaeme urged pregnant women to take advantage of the Anambra State Government's free maternal healthcare programme, which covers antenatal care, delivery and Caesarean section.

The Medical Officer in Charge of Ofuobi General Hospital, Dr. Evaristus Iloka, said the exercise was designed to educate residents about available medical services, encouraging them to seek early treatment for common health conditions.

Iloka explained that some illnesses that residents may consider serious or lifethreatening can be effectively managed at the facility, including conditions locally referred to as "enyi ure" and related ailments.

Some beneficiaries, including Mr. Charles Ezeilo and Mr. Uchechukwu Ogamba, expressed appreciation to the hospital for bringing free medical services closer to residents.

They said the exercise provided relief to many people, expressing confidence in the quality of care available at Ofuobi General Hospital, pledging to continue making use of its services.









NWANKWO CONGRATULATES SEVEN ANAMBRA CENTRAL MAYORS, TASKS THEM ON GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT

By Cordelia Akueche

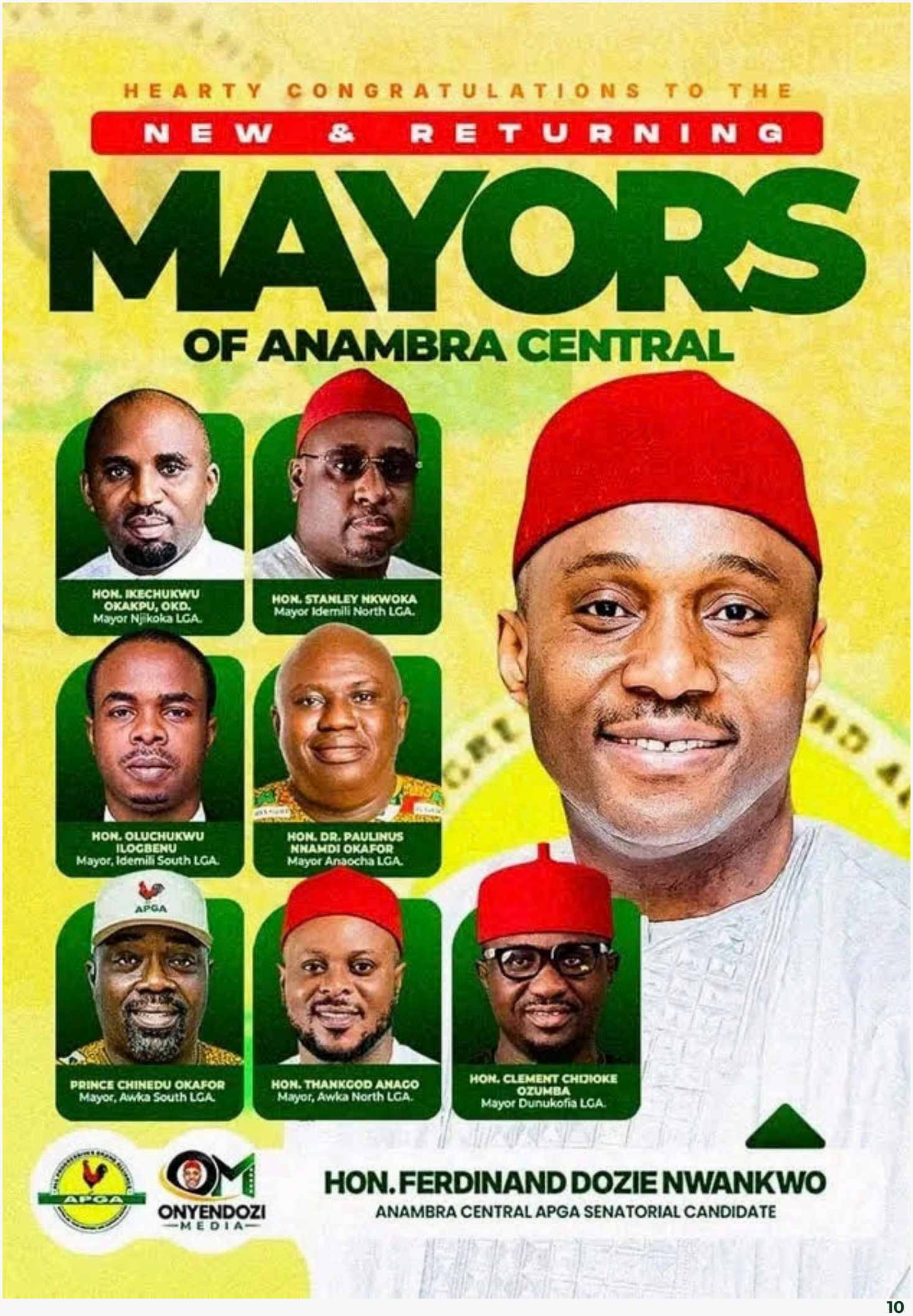
The APGA Senatorial Candidate for Anambra Central, Hon. Dozie Nwankwo, has congratulated the seven newly inaugurated and returning mayors of the Local Government Areas(LGA) that make up the Senatorial District, tasking them to prioritise the welfare and development of their people.

Nwankwo conveyed the message in a statement , describing their inauguration as an opportunity to strengthen grassroots governance and deliver meaningful services to residents.

He urged the mayors to lead with wisdom, humility, courage and dedication, stressing that the people expect responsive leadership and tangible improvements in their communities.

Nwankwo called for greater attention to youth and women empowerment, local infrastructure and community development, while encouraging the mayors to create an environment where residents and businesses can thrive.

He noted that Anambra Central is home to hardworking and enterprising people, expressing optimism that effective collaboration among the various levels of government would accelerate development across the district.


HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
NEW & RETURNING
MAYORS
OF ANAMBRA CENTRAL
HON. IKECHUKWU OKAKPU, OKD.
Mayor Njikoka LGA.
HON. STANLEY NKWOKA
Mayor Idemili North LGA.
HON. OLUCHUKWU ILOGBENU
Mayor, Idemili South LGA.
HON. DR. PAULINUS NNAMDI OKAFOR
Mayor Anaocha LGA.
APGA
PRINCE CHINEDU OKAFOR
Mayor, Awka South LGA.
HON. THANKGOD ANAGO
Mayor, Awka North LGA.
HON. CLEMENT CHIJIOKE OZUMBA
Mayor Dunukofia LGA.
APGA
ONYENDOZI MEDIA
HON. FERDINAND DOZIE NWANKWO
ANAMBRA CENTRAL APGA SENATORIAL CANDIDATE

UNIZIK EXPANDS POSTGRADUATE STUDIES WITH FLEXIBLE ONLINE LEARNING

By Nkiru Anakor

Nnamdi Azikiwe University (UNIZIK), Awka, has expanded its postgraduate education system to accommodate flexible online learning, enabling students to pursue their academic programmes without being physically present on campus for every activity.

The Vice-Chancellor of the university, Prof. Ugochukwu Stanley Anyaehie, disclosed this in Awka, noting that the traditional physical mode of postgraduate study remains available for students who prefer attending lectures and other academic activities on campus.

He added that the university had embraced online learning as an alternative for students residing far from Awka, including those in other parts of Nigeria and abroad.

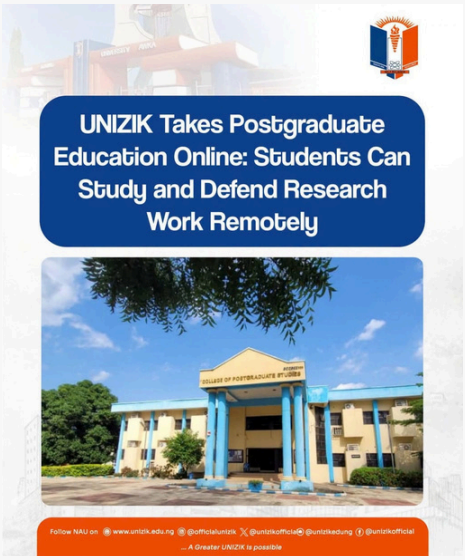
Anyaehie said through the College of Postgraduate Studies, led by Prof. Emmanuel Chukwudebere Obidimma, eligible students could access lectures, academic resources and other approved activities remotely.

He explained that, subject to the university's approved procedures, students could also participate remotely in examinations and project, thesis and dissertation defences where applicable.

According to him, the digital approach supports various stages of postgraduate studies, including proposal development, supervision, research presentations, corrections and final defence, subject to applicable requirements.

He said the initiative would benefit students in Lagos, Abuja, other Nigerian cities, the United Kingdom, the United States and other locations by reducing the need to travel to Awka for every academic activity.

The Vice-Chancellor said the initiative formed part of the university's wider digital transformation through the Management Information and Communication Technology Unit (MICTU), led by Prof. Ikechukwu Onyenwe.



He noted that the digitisation drive had extended to critical student and academic services, including transcript processing, tuition payment, certificate collection, the UNIZIK Student Portal, artificial intelligence-enabled biometric capturing, proctored examinations and digital clearance for graduating students.

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY 2026: GOV. SOLUDO CELEBRATES TEACHERS, PROMISES NEW RECRUITMENT, PERMANENT SECRETARY APPOINTMENTS

By Ifeyinwa Ogwo

The Anambra State Governor, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo has promised to recruit more teachers and appoint eligible teachers who have reached Director level as Permanent Secretaries in the next batch of appointments.

"Promotion of teachers ends at the level of a Director, while the post of a Permanent Secretary is by appointment, and right now, we have some names who have applied and are undergoing scrutiny. In the next batch, the eligible ones among you will be appointed."

He reiterated that the retirement age of 60 remains in place. However, teachers who wish to remain in service longer may do so by choice, provided they express their interest and are assessed on merit.

The governor made the remarks at the 2026 World Teachers' Day celebration, themed "Standing With Teachers: 60 Years of Protecting The Profession, Advancing Its Status And Shaping Our Futures," held at the Anambra State Teachers' House, in Awka, on October 5.

The governor praised teachers for their tireless efforts to educate and shape children, and thanked them for their strong support for his re-election.

"Teachers are the greatest force that drives society to greater heights. It is a noble profession which shows the light and must be the light. The future of Anambra is in your hands; ensure you go to school daily," he said.

Earlier, the Chairperson of the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT), Anambra State wing, Comrade Chika Grace Chukwudozie, welcomed the Governor and his entourage. She said the celebration commemorates the 1966 recommendations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on the status of teachers, and aims to recognise teachers and assess issues related to teachers and ongoing programmes.

She thanked the Governor for the regular payment of teachers' salaries

and allowances; promotions; teacher training and retraining; extensive school renovations and the upgrading of some schools to smart schools; the introduction of free education through senior secondary school to reduce the number of out-of-school children in Anambra State; rehabilitation and equipping of technical schools; donations of learning materials to schools; provision of shuttle buses and speedboats for teachers, students and monitoring teams to improve teaching and learning; and support and learning materials for students with physical disabilities.

She appealed for the recruitment of more teachers; raising the teachers' promotion ceiling to Salary Grade Level 17; appointing qualified teachers as permanent secretaries; and implementing the new retirement age for teachers.







DRAMA IN COURT AS PASTOR ANAZODO'S SUPPORTERS HARASS JOURNALISTS, DAMAGE PHONES

*** ATTORNEY GENERAL CONDEMNS ACT AS COURT ORDERS REPLACEMENT OF GADGETS, WARNS AGAINST HARRASMENT OF PRESS**

By Rose Oranye



There was mild drama at the Anambra State High Court, Awka, on Tuesday, October6, 2026, as persons suspected to be supporters and church members of the General Overseer of Dayspring Assembly, Awada-Obosi, Pastor Harrison Anazodo, attacked journalists and cameramen while trying to smuggle him into the courtroom.

Eyewitnesses said the supporters, who covered the cleric with umbrellas and their hands to shield him from cameras, pushed journalists with the vehicle that conveyed him as it reversed to the entrance door of the court.

Two to three journalists reportedly had their phones damaged in the altercation, while the supporters occupied every available space in the courtroom, leaving no room for journalists and other observers.

Speaking to journalists after the court proceedings, the Anambra State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Barr. Tobechukwu Nweke, SAN, condemned the incident.

He said: "My attention was drawn to the fact that the defendant standing criminal trial, Pastor Harrison Anazodo, came to the court premises with some persons who attacked members of the press and damaged their gadgets. I had to enter the courtroom and inform the court of that unfortunate incident, for two reasons: the court premises and the courtroom are hallowed places, and secondly, journalists are the eyes and ears of the public and must be respected at all times."

"I condemned that attitude, reported the incident to the court, asked the court to take note of that conduct in the proceedings of the case, and indicated that I would escalate it to law enforcement authorities," Nweke said.

According to the Attorney-General, counsel to the defendant apologised to him, to members of the press and to the court, and accepted the condition to replace the damaged gadgets.

"The court delivered a bench ruling accepting the apology, directing that the gadgets be replaced, and appealing to me to let the matter rest. This is fundamental to the extent that it re-emphasises the freedom of the press to carry out their duties," he said.

Nweke added that the court further ordered that the hearing in the matter will remain public and accessible to the press and that no journalist should be harassed going forward, warning that any repeat of such conduct would make the trial be held on camera.

Recall that Anazodo was arrested by officials of the Anambra State Government on June 10, 2026, and is facing trial before Justice Jude Obiora on a seven-count charge bordering on allegedly propagating the accumulation of wealth through supernatural means which was proscribed by the Anambra State Homeland Security Law 2025, as well as murder, abduction, and the unlawful separation and isolation of individuals from their families and keeping them in his residence.

ANAMBRA PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR WINS NATIONAL AWARD, STATE SECURES NINE HONOURS

By Obiageli Nwankwo

Mrs. Gloria Nkolika Odionu of Awada Primary School 4, Obosi, Anambra State, was named Overall Best Public Primary School Administrator in Nigeria at the 2026 President's Teachers' and Schools' Excellence Awards.

The awards were presented on Oct. 5, at Eagle Square, Abuja, with Anambra securing nine of the 18 honours presented at the ceremony.

Odionu's award was one of the state's eight outright wins, while Anambra also emerged first runner up in the Best Public Secondary School Teacher category.

Odionu received a Jetour vehicle as part of her prize.

Another Anambra nominee, Mrs. Agatha Chika Ofojindu, was named Best Public Junior Secondary School Administrator in Nigeria and received a tricycle as part of her prize.

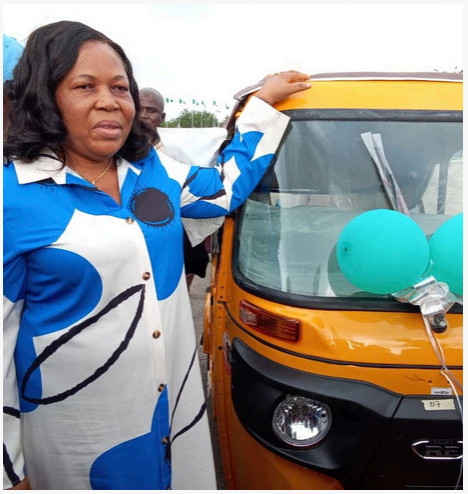
The state recorded other outright wins in the categories of Best Private Junior Secondary School Teacher, Best Public Primary School Teacher, Best Private Junior Secondary School, Best Private Senior Secondary School, Best Private Junior Secondary School Administrator and Best Private Primary School.



The 18 awards covered teachers, school administrators and schools across the public and private sectors.

Other prizes presented in the various categories included deep freezers and laptops.

With nine awards, Anambra accounted for half of the honours presented at the national event.





IBEZIM HAILS TEACHERS AS BEDROCK OF SOCIETY, REAFFIRMS ANAMBRA GOVT'S SUPPORT

By MaryAnn Chukwuma

The Deputy Governor of Anambra State, Dr. Onyekachukwu Ibezim, has described teachers as the bedrock of every progressive society, acknowledging their vital role in shaping minds, nurturing character and preparing future generations.

Ibezim stated this in a message after accompanying Governor Chukwuma Soludo, CFR, to the 2026 World Teachers' Day celebration held on October 5, at the Nigeria Union of Teachers Secretariat in Awka.

The Deputy Governor noted that teachers perform responsibilities beyond classroom instruction, stressing that they nurture character, inspire dreams and equip learners with the knowledge, purpose and confidence needed to contribute meaningfully to society.

He reaffirmed the state government's commitment to supporting teachers, recognising their invaluable contributions and creating an enabling environment where they can effectively discharge their responsibilities.

According to him, sustained government support is essential to enabling teachers give their best in raising well-rounded learners and strengthening the education system in Anambra State.

Ibezim commended teachers across the state for their dedication, sacrifices and continued service, noting that their efforts contribute significantly to human capital development and the overall progress of society.

He said teachers deserved sustained appreciation and support for their role in building the future, one learner at a time, urging them to remain committed to the ideals and responsibilities of their noble profession.









RISING TRANSPORT FARES DEEPEN FINANCIAL PRESSURE ON NIGERIANS

By Stella Obi

For many Nigerians, the morning rush now comes with an added concern: finding a vehicle that is not only available but also affordable. At bus stops, commuters check fares and make quick calculations before deciding whether they can afford the cost of getting to work, school, the market or other destinations.

The rising cost of transportation has become a daily challenge for households, with increased fares taking a larger share of people's income and leaving less money for food, education and other essential needs.

The situation is forcing some commuters to adjust their routines. Some leave home earlier to avoid expensive routes, while others walk part of the distance or wait longer for cheaper means of transportation.

Workers are spending more on daily trips to their places of employment, while students and other young people are equally affected by higher commuting costs. Those who live far from their workplaces or schools face even greater financial pressure.

Parents are also having to factor transportation expenses into their household budgets. For some families, the rising cost of commuting has influenced decisions on where their children attend school, with some opting for institutions closer to home.

Traders and small business owners are facing similar challenges, as increased transport fares raise the cost of moving goods and travelling to markets. The additional expenses are putting pressure on already tight business budgets.

The rising cost of transportation is also changing family routines, with people increasingly combining several errands into one trip, walking where possible and cutting down on journeys considered unnecessary.

For many households, every journey now requires careful financial planning, as the cost of movement directly affects how income is allocated to other necessities.

As transport fares continue to put pressure on household and business finances, mobility is becoming increasingly difficult for some Nigerians, with many forced to rethink how, when and how often they travel.



IMMUNISATION : CMC AWKUZU URGES PARENTS NOT TO MISS CHILDREN'S VACCINES



By Angela Oduche

The Matron, Comprehensive Medical Centre (CMC), Awkuzu, Mrs. Meze Apolonia, has urged parents and caregivers to prioritise routine immunisation, stressing that timely vaccination remains an important way to protect children against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Mrs. Meze Apolonia, said vaccination protects children from diseases that can lead to severe illness, complications and, in some cases, death.

She advised parents not to wait until their children become ill before seeking medical attention, stressing the importance of prevention and early care.

Mrs. Meze encouraged mothers and caregivers to keep their children's immunisation cards safely and follow the vaccination schedule provided by health workers, urging parents to maintain regular contact with health facilities to know when their children are due for subsequent doses.

A nurse at the centre, Miss Adora Okeke, emphasised the need for parents to complete the recommended immunisation schedule, noting that a child may appear healthy while still requiring vaccination to develop adequate protection against certain preventable diseases.

She, therefore, encouraged parents not to miss vaccination appointments or stop the schedule simply because their children appear well, urging caregivers to seek clarification from health workers whenever they have questions or concerns about vaccines.

Sharing her experience, a parent, Mrs. Obigwe Nneka, said she takes her child for routine immunisation because she understands the role vaccination plays in protecting children from preventable diseases.

She encouraged other parents to make immunisation a priority and take advantage of available health services.

ANAMBRA INFORMATION MINISTRY OPENS VALUE REFORMATION OFFICE, PLANS STATEWIDE RADIO CAMPAIGN

By Rose Oranye



The Anambra State Commissioner for Information and Value Reformation, Dr. Law Mefor, on Oct. 7, formally opened a three-room Value Reformation Project Office at the ministry in Awka. Addressing stakeholders at the event, Mefor said the office was a demonstration of good faith and commitment to the value reformation mandate given to the ministry by Governor Chukwuma Soludo.

He recalled that a few weeks ago, stakeholders gathered to tease out ways of activating the dual mandate, adding that since then, the team had worked online leveraging digital technology to produce a working manual that is now before the Governor and the Anambra State Executive Council (ANSEC) for inputs. Mefor disclosed that the new office was not a handover to any group but a project office for all partners in the coalition of the willing, and commended the Drivers Welfare Association of Nigeria, which honoured him as its National Grand Patron, for equipping the office and for showing consistent commitment to the project, urging other organisations to emulate the gesture.

The commissioner said while legislation and enforcement aspects of the tripartite approach – legislation, moral persuasion and enforcement – are being handled by the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice, the moral persuasion arm must start immediately. He announced plans to expand the existing ABS programme, Malụmebe, into a multi-station syndicated radio programme across at least five stations to dominate the airwaves and conscientise Ndi Anambra within three to six months.

Mefor noted that sponsorship will be open to individuals and organisations, with recognition given on air, provided messages remain clean, patriotic and developmental, stressing that the campaign will be built on five layers – state, local government, ward, community and institutional structures – with emphasis on primary schools, noting that children can help drive behavioural change at home. After cutting the tape and inspecting the facility, the commissioner urged stakeholders to act fast to kick-start the radio programme in October to avoid losing the quarter.

Earlier the Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Dr Obiageli Uchebo, appreciated all stakeholders for their efforts so far in supporting the work of the ministry, and expressed hope that they would sustain the support to enable the ministry achieve the desired goals.

In their separate remarks, the President, Drivers Welfare Club of Nigeria, Comrade Monday Elimigbe, and the Director of Operations, Drivers Welfare Club of Nigeria, Elvis Oliver Okolie, commended Governor Chukwuma Soludo for taking the right decision by initiating the value reformation agenda, while assuring that the organisation is ready to sponsor the agenda to the fullest.


SOLUTION IS HERE







ANAMBRA CLOSES NKISI BRIDGE FOR TWO WEEKS TO ENABLE MAINTENANCE WORK

By Kelechi Achukwu-Jide

The Anambra State Ministry of Works and Infrastructure has directed the closure of Nkisi Bridge from Oct. 3 to Oct. 17, to enable maintenance works on the facility.

The directive was contained in a letter dated Oct. 2, 2026, and signed by the Director, Highways (M/ES), Engr. Chukwuebuka Anselm Okoli, and addressed to Ferotex Construction Company.

According to the ministry, the closure became necessary following the observed undermining of the approach slab and abutment of the bridge. It said the decision was reached after consultations with community leaders on the proposed closure, and directed the contractor to adequately publicise the exercise to ensure motorists and other road users were informed ahead of time.

Engr. N.O. Aje, a Chartered Civil and Structural Engineer consulting for Ferotex, said the construction team had commenced piling at four locations as part of the intervention works. He said drilling had reached 15 metres out of the planned 18 metres before heavy rainfall disrupted the operation.

Aje explained that flooding affected the work area and piling equipment, adding that work had continued on the precast beams while the team awaited improved weather conditions. He said the ongoing intervention was part of efforts to address the structural concerns identified around the bridge.

Meanwhile, the Mayor of Onitsha North, Hon. Nweze Tony Nwora, who inspected the project site on Oct. 2, urged residents, motorists and other road users to make alternative route arrangements ahead of the closure. He advised road users to plan their movements accordingly throughout the period of the maintenance works.



ORA-ERI COMMUNITY FOOTBALL FACILITY COMMISSIONED, BOOSTS GRASSROOTS SPORTS DEVELOPMENT IN AGUATA

By Charity Ejiofor

A major boost to grassroots sports development in Aguata Local Government Area was recorded on October 2, 2026, with the commissioning of the newly constructed Ora-Eri Community Football Facility.

The project, initiated to provide young football talents with a standard platform for training and development, was described as a significant step towards nurturing the next generation of football stars from the area.

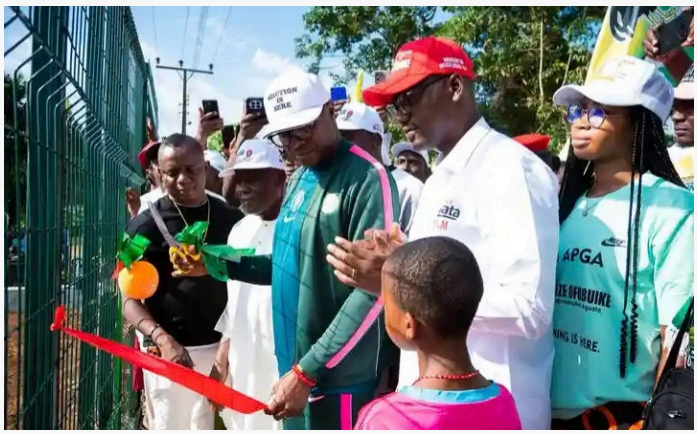
Speaking during the commissioning, the immediate past Mayor of Aguata LGA, Dr. Chibueze Ofobuike, expressed fulfilment over the completion of the facility, describing it as the actualisation of a long-held vision to establish a standard football facility in the community. Ofobuike expressed optimism that the facility would help groom promising footballers in Aguata, while providing them with opportunities to showcase their talents and gain recognition beyond the community.

The facility was officially commissioned by the Anambra State Commissioner for Sports and Youth Development, Hon. Patrick Agha Mba, who joined community members, youths and football enthusiasts to celebrate the milestone.

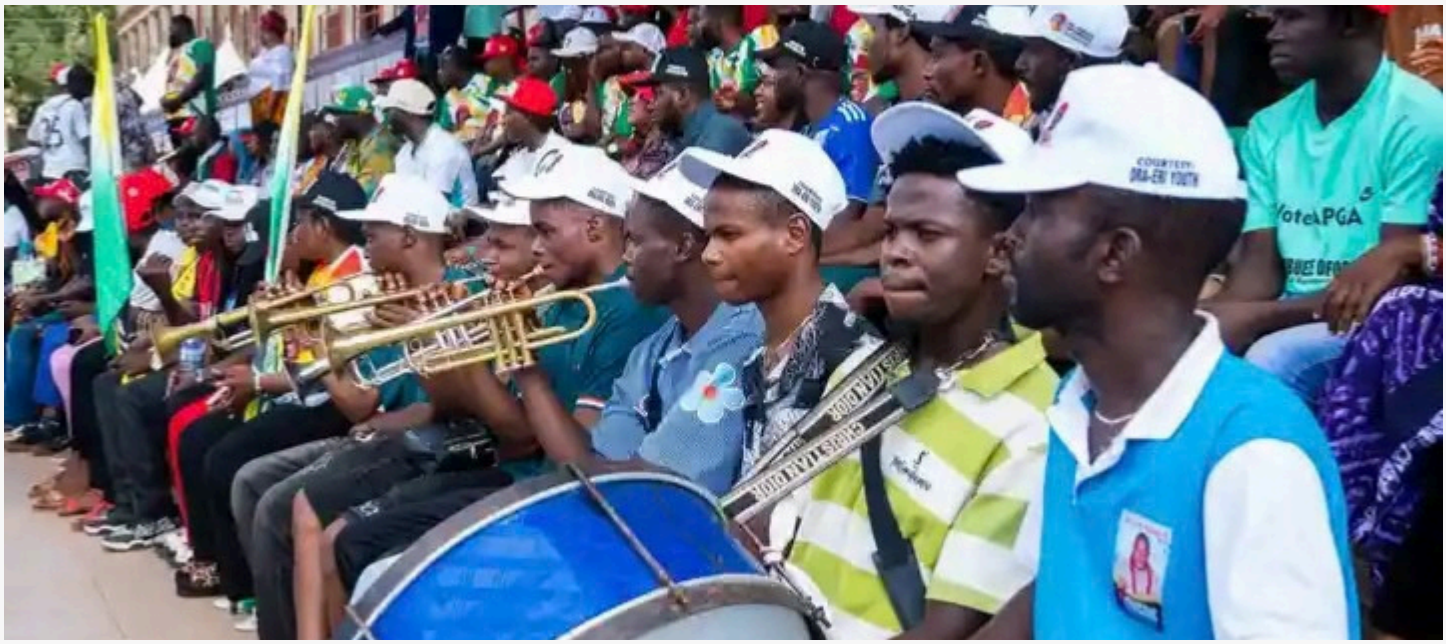
As part of activities marking the occasion, a valedictory football match was organised in honour of the outgoing Mayor, featuring Team Aguata I Constituency against Team Aguata II Constituency. The match, organised by a coalition of youth bodies across Aguata LGA, ended in a 1-0 victory for Team Aguata II Constituency.

The encounter attracted enthusiastic spectators who enjoyed an evening of football and entertainment, while bringing together young people from across Aguata and providing a platform for sports, unity and community engagement. With the commissioning of the Ora-Eri Community Football Facility, expectations are high that the project will serve as a breeding ground for emerging football talents in Aguata and contribute to placing young footballers from the area on the global football map.









AWKA CITY STADIUM HOSTS NPFL THRILLER AS RANGERS BEAT ABIA WARRIORS 3-1

By Chidimma Ajemba

Awka City Stadium came alive on October 4,2026, as football fans turned out in large numbers to watch the Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) clash between Enugu Rangers and Abia Warriors, with Rangers emerging 3–1 winners at the end of an entertaining encounter.

The match attracted a lively crowd of passionate supporters who cheered their respective teams throughout the game, creating an energetic atmosphere at the stadium. The impressive turnout reflected the strong passion for football among residents and supporters in the state.

The encounter also showcased the capacity of Awka City Stadium to host major football fixtures and provide a suitable environment for players, supporters and other football stakeholders. The growing patronage of football activities further highlights the importance of accessible sporting facilities to grassroots sports development.

The event underscored the need for sustained investment in sports infrastructure and programmes capable of identifying, engaging and developing young talents. It also pointed to the importance of stronger partnerships between government and the private sector in promoting a vibrant sports culture and creating more opportunities for athletes.

The state government has continued to prioritise sports development as part of broader efforts to empower young people, promote healthy lifestyles and provide platforms for sporting talents. The 3–1 victory by Enugu Rangers over Abia Warriors, coupled with the enthusiastic support from fans, added another memorable chapter to football activities at Awka City Stadium.




ANAMBRA STATE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (ANSFA)
Felicitates
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